

# TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM



*Annual Town Report 2017*



On the cover: Downtown view

Edited by: Mary Calandrella  
Cover Photo by: Maggie Whitney  
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As always, I want to thank all the Departments, Committees, Boards and Commissions  
for submitting your reports timely and for all the wonderful photos.

**Mary Calandrella**



# IN MEMORIAM

**Dianne Mayo Fichtel**

**Born – June 5, 1954**

**Died – February 28, 2017**

Dianne resided in Ashburnham for 30 years. She volunteered on the J.R. Briggs School Council, Oakmont School Council, and was a past President and member of the Friends of Stevens Memorial Library. As an Ashburnham business owner Dianne's passions for food, entertaining, and decorating came to life in transforming the former George Hardy Estate on Main Street into MainFare Bed & Breakfast. It was here that she truly shined with her seasonal decorations for all to see, in hosting guests from the world over, and acting as one of Ashburnham's best ambassadors.





## RETIREMENT NEWS

2017 Brought the retirement of Ed Schlott the Town Hall custodian in November. Ed served the town for 20 years and was a tremendous asset to our town buildings and staff. We all wish Ed a great retirement.



2017 also brought the retirement of Carla Clifford the Town Tax Collector in February. Carla was a familiar face of Town Hall to many residents. Carla served the town for over 15 years as the Tax Collector. We all wish Carla a very happy retirement.

# TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM



## ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OFFICERS FISCAL YEAR 2017

Please visit our website - [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov)

# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

*“Service of 15 years or more on Boards/Committees/Commissions”*

The Town of Ashburnham has many Boards, Committees and Commissions that exist solely because of the selflessness and dedication of the many volunteers. The Town would like to acknowledge and thank these individuals who are currently serving and have worked countless hours to make the Town a great place to live. We thank you!

The Board of Selectmen continues to search for volunteers to staff the Town’s various Boards and Committees. Serving on one of the Town’s Boards, Committees, or Commissions offers a rewarding challenge to share your talents as well as your energy to make our Town a great place to live.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a Town Board, Committee or Commission please complete the form on the Town’s website under Volunteer Opportunities - [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov) and forward it to Town Hall.

NAME	SERVICE	YEARS
Charlotte Cramm	Election Officer	51
Carol Chenevert	Election Officer	35
Christina Sargent	Historical Commission	34
Jean Kokernak	Election Officer	33
Paula Boutwell	Election Officer	27
Elaine Cormier	Election Officer	25
David Perry	Zoning Bd. of Appeals	24
David Berger	W/S Commission	21
Leo Collette	W/S Commission	21
George Cornwall	W/S Commission	20
Terry Girouard	Zoning Bd. of Appeals	20
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# TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

Incorporated in 1765

## AT A GLANCE

We are governed by Town Charter with a three member Board of Selectmen and a Town Administrator. Our Annual Town Meeting is held on the first Tuesday in May and our Annual Town Election is on the last Tuesday in April.

Ashburnham's population is 5,864 and there are 4,068 registered voters. The Town's Residential/Commercial Tax Rate for FY16 was \$22.75 and for FY17 its \$22.97. Taxes are due on August 1st, November 1st, February 1st, and May 1st.

Ashburnham's elevation (Mt. Watatic) is 1,832 feet and has 80 miles of public roads and 20 miles of private roads. The number of parcels in Ashburnham is 3,957 and there are 1,124 Water customers and 661 Sewer customers.

Ashburnham has a lovely library, the Stevens Memorial Library located at 20 Memorial Drive and also has its own light plant, the Ashburnham Municipal Light located at 24 Williams Road.

Ashburnham is part of a Regional School District with the Town of Westminster. We have a new elementary school, the J.R. Briggs Elementary School located at 96 Williams Road.

We also have Overlook Middle School at 10 Oakmont Drive and Oakmont Regional High School at 9 Oakmont Drive. Cushing Academy, a private school, at 39 School Street, is also located in Ashburnham.

The Ashburnham Senior Center provides transportation for seniors through the MART Van/Council on Aging Van which provides door to door transport at a minimal charge



### PLACES OF WORSHIP

Apostolic Lutheran Church  
– Route 12  
Ashburnham Community Church  
– 9 Chapel St.  
Peoples Church  
– 56 South Main St.  
St. Denis Catholic Church  
– 85 Main St.

### RECREATION AREAS

Bickford Ballfield  
Danny Marden Little League Field  
Landry Field  
Sweeney Memorial Playground  
Whitney Ballfield  
Winchester Park  
Midstate Trail  
Russell Hill Town Forest  
Bush Hill Town Forest  
Mount Watatic  
Ashburnham Rail Trail

### CEMETERIES

Fairbanks Cemetery  
Meeting House Hill  
New Cemetery  
St. Denis Cemetery

### ASHBURNHAM DESIGNATED SCENIC ROADS

*PER TOWN VOTE OF MAY 11, 1974*

Bush Hill Road	
Cashman Hill Road	Willard Road
Corey Hill Road	Young Road
Cushing Street	
East Rindge Road	
Hastings Road	
Lashua Road	
Packard Hill Road	
River Styx Road	
Russell Hill Road	
Wilker Road	

# TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

## Address and Telephone Number Listings

### TOWN DEPARTMENTS

EMERGENCY 911  
24 HOUR DISPATCH 978-827-5714

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*99 Central Street*  
Office 978-827-4110  
Animal Control/Dispatch (24 hrs.) 978-827-5714  
Fax 978-827-5703

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*99 Central Street*  
General Office 978-827-4021  
Dispatch (24 hrs.) 978-827-5714  
Fax 978-827-4111

#### **DPW W/S DEPARTMENT**

*17 Central Street*  
General Office 978-827-4100 ext 5  
Dispatch (24 hrs.) 978-827-5714  
Fax 978-827-4121

#### **MUNICIPAL GROUNDS DEPARTMENT**

*8 Williams Road*  
General Office 978-827-4122  
Dispatch (24 hrs.) 978-827-5714

#### **MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT**

*24 Williams Road*  
General Office 978-827-4110  
Dispatch (24 hrs.) 978-827-5714  
Fax 978-827-3370

### SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

*32 Main Street*  
General Office 978-827-5000  
MART Van Reservations 978-827-5000

(24 hour advance notice required)

#### **STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

*20 Memorial Drive*  
General Office 978-827-4115  
Fax 978-827-4116

### SCHOOLS

#### **SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OFFICE**

*11 Oakmont Drive*  
General Office 978-827-1434  
Fax 978-827-5969

#### **OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

*9 Oakmont Drive*  
General Office 978-827-5907

#### **OVERLOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*10 Oakmont Drive*  
General Office 978-827-1425

#### **J. R. BRIGGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*96 Williams Road*  
General Office 978-827-5750



# TOWN HALL OFFICES

32 Main Street • 978-827-4100 • FAX 978-827-4105

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday	7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday	CLOSED

DEPARTMENT	STAFF CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS	EXT.
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen	Mary Calandrella	mcalandrella@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 0
Treasurer/Collector	Sara Paz	sjpazr@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext.1 option 2
Assistant Treasurer/Collector	Mary Ellen Kelly	mkelly@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 1 option 3
Town Clerk	Michelle Johnson	mjohnson@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 3
Assessors	Sherri DiPasquale	assessors@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 2
Town Accountant	Bay State Municipal Accounting Group		Ext. 1 option 4
Conservation Commission	Rich Turcotte	conservation@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 4 option 2
Board of Health	Rick Metcalf		Ext. 7
Land Use Office (Building Commissioner, Electrical, Gas & Plumbing Inspectors, Zoning Board of Appeals)	Heather Ruziak Donna Burton	hruziak@ashburnham-ma.gov dburton@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 6
Planning Board		Please leave a voice message	Ext. 4 option 1
Town Hall Custodian	Jon Sell	jsell@ashburnham-ma.gov	Ext. 8

# TOWN VEHICLE MILEAGE

## *As of January 2018*

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

2014 Polaris six wheel UTV	189
2013 Ford Utility (Chief Vehicle)	95,891
2012 Ford F350 Pick-up	33,605
2008 Ford F450 Brush Truck	18,882
2006 HME/Central 1250 Pumper	17,278
2016 Ford E-450 Ambulance	21,926
1998 Freightliner 1500 GPM Pumper	35,215
1986 Chevy Stake Bed	9,663
1982 Mack/ LTI Ladder Truck	105,940
2017 EOne Pumper/Tanker	3,399

### **DPW DEPARTMENT**

2015 Mack Combo/Dump/Sander	22,180
2006 John Deere Backhoe	5,735 hrs.
2014 John Deere Backhoe	1202 hrs
2012 Volvo Loader	4640 hrs
2012 International Combo	31,201
2011 Ford F550	61,761
2008 International 7400	31,150
2007 Chevy Silverado Pick-up	97,102
2007 Bobcat	618 hrs
2005 JD Brush Cutter	5,028 hrs.
2003 Volvo Loader	10,240 hrs
1996 Elgin Sweeper	4,220 hrs
1996 John Deere Grader	5,825hrs
1993 Trackless MT	2,566 hrs
2017 Trackless	53 hrs
2016 Ford F550	14,227

### **MUNICIPAL GROUNDS DEPARTMENT**

2012 Ford F550	54,872
2012 Ford F550	36,400
2017 Ford F350	10,800

### **WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

2013 Ford F150	36,400
2012 Ford F550	54,872
1987 Grumman Box Truck	217,004

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

2014 Ford Interceptor Utility	91,200
2015 Ford Interceptor Utility	63,400
2015 Ford Interceptor Unmarked Taurus Sedan	21,100
2016 Ford Interceptor Utility	37,800
2017 Ford Interceptor Sedan	30,400
2013 Ford Explorer (Admin.)	79,500
2006 Mercury Mountaineer	106,800
2010 Emergency Lights & Generator Trailer	N/A
2010 Message Board Trailer	N/A
2007 Speed Control Trailer	N/A
2006 Utility Trailer	N/A
Boat and Trailer	N/A

# MUNICIPAL OFFICES

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

POSITION	TERM
<b>MODERATOR</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Keith Glenney	2018
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Leo Janssens	2018
Kyle Johnson	2019
John Mulhall	2020
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Patrick Durkee	2017
Thomas Flanagan	2018
Glenn Hathaway, Chair	2019
F. John McLaughlin	2018
Scott Sibley	2019
<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>	
<i>5 Year Term</i>	
George Cornwall	2019
Roger Hoyt, Chair	2017
Joseph Kalagher	2020
Richard Wright	2018
William J. Nolan, III	2018
<b>LIBRARY TRUSTEES</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Christine Eddy	2017
Anne Olivari	2019
Lynne Pinsoneault	2017
Paula St. Laurent-Kuehl	2019
Edward Vitone, Chair	2017
Candace Wright	2018

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS-Cont.

POSITION	TERM
<b>MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Richard Ahlin	2017
Mark Carlisle	2019
Sarah Davis	2018
<b>ASH/WEST. REG. SCHOOL COMM.</b>	
<i>Ashburnham (3 Year Term)</i>	
David M. Christianson, Jr.	2017
Sarah Dorsey	2019
Michelle A. Gianino	2019
Keith P. Glenney	2018
Ellen Holmes	2017
<i>Westminster (3 Year Term)</i>	
Leonard Beaton	2017
Jeff Boudreau	2018
Robert Ewing	2019
Gwen Farley	2019
Joshua Schonborg	2017
<b>MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS</b>	
POSITION	TERM
<b>ADVISORY BOARD</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Gail Dumont	2017
Francis (Bill) Johnson, Chair	2018
Joseph Oliveira	2019
James Piedrafite	2017
Ronald Putnam	2017
Allison Weissensee	2019
Bruce Whitney	2019

## SELECTMAN'S APPOINTMENTS

POSITION	TERM
<b>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Heather M. Budrewicz	2020
<b>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Tanya Gaylord	2018
<b>CONSTABLE</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Loring Barrett	2018
Chris Conrad	2018
<b>TOWN COUNSEL</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
C. Deborah Phillips, Esq.	2018
<b>SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR LABOR RELATIONS</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Mirick O'Connell	2018
<b>SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR TAX MATTERS</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Coppola & Coppola	2018
<b>MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Kyle Johnson	2018



# MUNICIPAL OFFICES

## SELECTMAN'S APPOINTMENTS Cont.

POSITION	TERM
<b>MART ADVISORY BOARD</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Jan Robbins	2018
<b>PARKING CLERK</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Donna Burton	2018
<b>REP. MONTY TECH SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE</b>	
<i>5 Year Term</i>	
Diane Swenson	2019
<b>MT. WATATIC MANAGEMENT</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Christopher Picone (alternate)	2018
<b>CULTURAL COUNCIL</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Deb Gardner	2019
Rebecca Cinclair	2018
Wendy Landry Margo	2018
Rebecca Rice - Flanagan, Chair	2019
Tammy Ricker	2019
Monica Tessitore	2018
<b>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Sara Allen	2018
Christina Sargent, Chair	2019
Allan Small	2018
David Uminski	2019

## SELECTMAN'S APPOINTMENTS Cont

POSITION	TERM
<b>WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
David Berger	2018
Leo Collette	2019
George Cornwall	2019
Valorie Daigle	2018
Charlie Packard	2019
<b>CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Tammy Collier, ex officio	2017
Tanya Gaylord, ex officio	2017
Bill Johnson	2017
Joseph Kalagher	2017
Noel McGonigle	2017
Duncan Phyfe	2017
James Piedrafite	2017
<b>AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Pat Amburgey	2018
Keith P. Kopley	2019
Gretchen Lafferty	2018
Christopher Picone	2019
Richard H. Wright	2017
<b>ENERGY COMMITTEE</b>	
Mark Carlisle	2017
Kyle Johnson	2017
Ed Vitone	2017

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTMENTS

POSITION	TERM
<b>FIRE CHIEF</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
James Cleveland	2020
<b>DPW AND W/S SUPERINTENDENT &amp; TREE WARDEN</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Stephen Nims	2018
<b>POLICE CHIEF</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Loring Barrett	2020
<b>REGIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Gardner Animal Control	2018
<b>TREASURER</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Sara Paz	2021
<b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Mary Ellen Kelly	2018
<b>TAX COLLECTOR</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Sara Paz	2021
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Michelle Johnson	2018

# MUNICIPAL OFFICES

## ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTMENTS Cont.

POSITION	TERM	POSITION	TERM	POSITION	TERM
<b>BUILDING COMMISSIONER &amp; ZONING OFFICER</b>		<b>BOARD OF ASSESSORS</b>		<b>TRUST FUND COMMISSION</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>	
Richard Reynolds	2019	Donna Burton	2017	Tammy Collier	2018
		Walter Harrington	2019	Linda Ramsdell	2019
		Joshua Gendron	2018	Michelle Johnson	2017
<b>ASSISTANT BUILDING COMMISSIONER</b>		<b>BOARD OF REGISTRARS</b>		<b>ELECTRICAL CONSTABLES</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Richard Hanks	2017	Nancy Gahan	2018	Ronald W. Skaife	2017
<b>ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR</b>		Michelle Johnson	2019	William Webber	2017
<i>1 Year Term</i>		Elizabeth A. Rosbury	2017		
Richard Cannavino	2018	Heather Sikora	2018		
<b>ASSISTANT ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR</b>		<b>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>		<b>ELECTION OFFICERS</b>	
<i>1 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>1 Year Term</i>	
Joseph Olivari	2018	Linda Couture	2018	Paula Boutwell	2017
Loring Barrett, Sr.	2018	Marshall Dennis, Chair	2017	Betty Bushee	2017
		Andrew Henderson	2019	Ann Brodeur	2017
		Christopher Picone	2018	Carol Chenevert	2017
<b>GAS &amp; PLUMBING INSPECTOR</b>		<b>COUNCIL ON AGING</b>		Elaine Cormier	2017
<i>1 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		Charlotte Cramm	2017
Maurice Picard		Betty Bushee	2018	Althea Donahue	2017
2018		Althea Donahue	2017	Virginia Driscoll	2017
<b>ASSISTANT GAS &amp; PLUMBING INSPECTOR</b>		Virginia Driscoll	2019	Jean Kokernak	2017
<i>1 Year Term</i>		Lorna Fields	2017	Carol Messar	2017
Wayne Little	2018	Barbara Hanson	2018	Jean Mountain	2017
		Jacqueline Osolin, Director	2018	Arthur Pinsoneault	2017
		Gloria Jean Lorion	2018	Lynne Pinsoneault	2017
<b>SEALER OF WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES</b>		<b>ADA COORDINATOR</b>		Louise Reid	2017
<i>1 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		Sallie Thoma	2017
Steven Slocum	2018	Richard Cannavino	2019		
<b>VETERANS AGENT &amp; BURIAL AGENT</b>		<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION COMMITTEE</b>		<b>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</b>	
<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>		<i>3 Year Term</i>	
George Kincannon	2018	Tim Dumont	2019	Cheryl Anderson, Alternate	2018
		Steven Gallant	2018	Richard Archer	2016
		Cheryl Goller, Chair	2017	Heather Carlisle	2017
		Deanne Smith	2019	Mark Carlisle	2018
		Richard Troop	2018	Terry Girouard	2017
				David Perry, Chair	2016

# ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

## GOVERNOR

### Honorable Charlie Baker (R)

[www.mass.gov/governor/contact](http://www.mass.gov/governor/contact)

#### *Boston Office*

Office of the Governor, Room 208

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-725-4005

(in state): 888-870-7770

Fax: 617-727-9725

#### *Springfield Office*

Western Mass. Office of the Governor

State Office Building

436 Dwight Street, Suite 300

Springfield, MA 01103

Phone: 413-784-1200

#### *Washington, D.C. Office*

Office of the Governor

444 North Capital Street, Suite 208

Washington, D.C. 20001

Phone: 202-624-7713

Fax: 202-624-7714

## UNITED STATES SENATORS

### Edward Markey (D)

[www.markey.senate.gov](http://www.markey.senate.gov)

#### *Washington, D.C. Office*

218 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-2742

#### *Boston Office*

975 JFK Building

15 New Sudbury Street

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-565-8519

### Elizabeth Warren (D)

[www.warren.senate.gov](http://www.warren.senate.gov)

#### *Washington, D.C. Office*

317 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-4543

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

### Maura Healy (D)

[agoweb@state.ma.us](mailto:agoweb@state.ma.us)

#### *Boston Office*

One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

Phone: 617-727-2200

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

### Niki Tsongas (D)

#### *Washington, D.C. Office*

1714 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-225-3411

Fax: 202-226-0771

#### *Lowell Office*

126 John Street, Suite 12

Lowell, MA 01852

Phone: 978-459-0101

#### *Lawrence Office*

15 Union Street, Suite 401

Lawrence, MA 01842

Phone: 978-459-0101

## STATE SENATOR

### Anne M. Gobi

[anne.gobi@masenate.gov](mailto:anne.gobi@masenate.gov)

#### *Boston Office*

State House, Room 513

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-1540

Fax: 617-722-1078

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### Jonathan Zlotnik (R)

[jon.zlotnik@mahouse.gov](mailto:jon.zlotnik@mahouse.gov)

#### *Boston Office*

State House, Room 437

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-2080

Fax: 617-626-0333

#### *District Office*

City Hall, Room 212

95 Pleasant Street

Gardner, MA 01440

Phone: 978-410-9559

## SECRETARY OF STATE

### William F. Galvin (D)

[cis@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:cis@sec.state.ma.us)

#### *Boston Office*

Citizen Information Service

McCormack Building

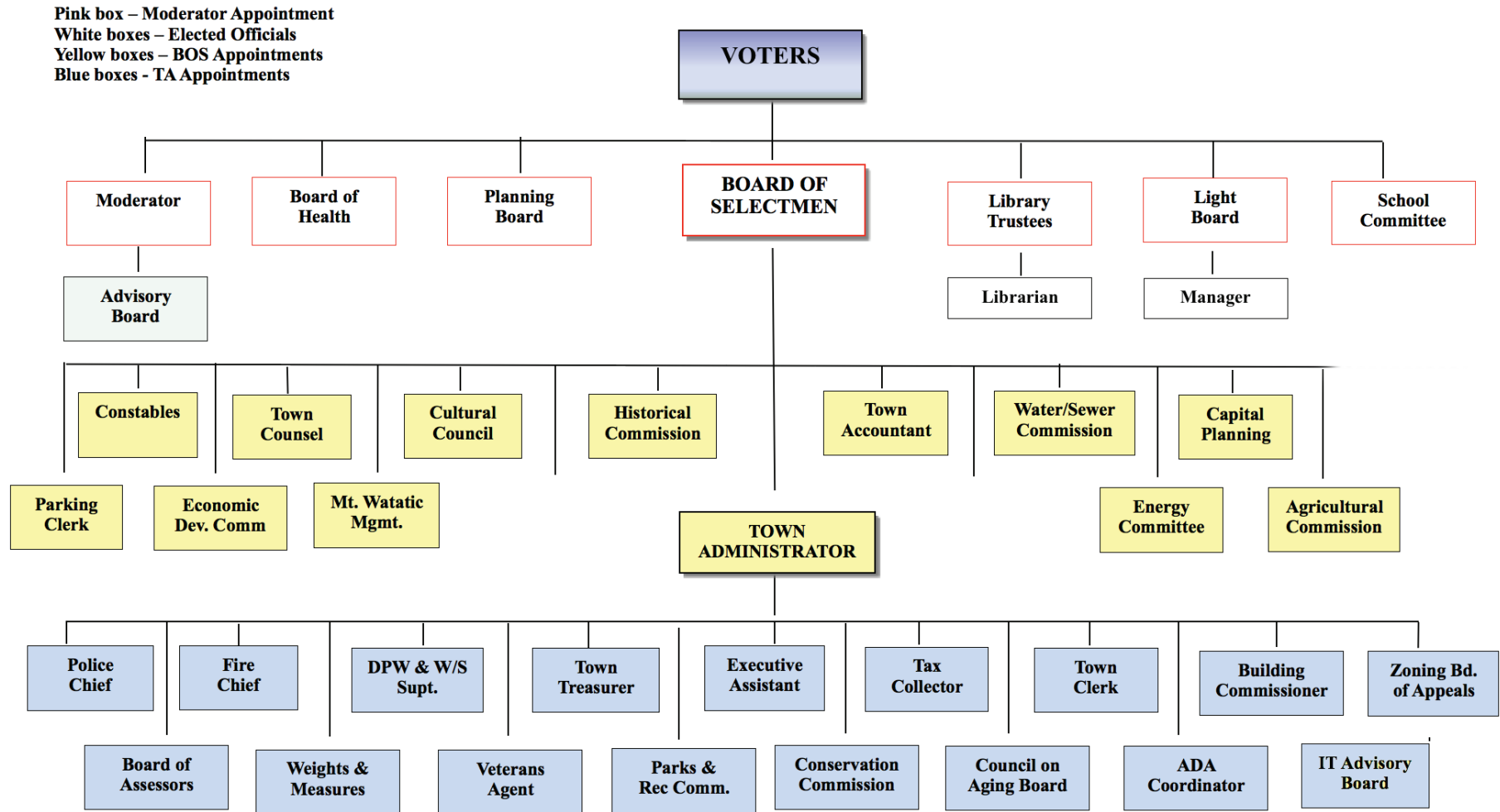
State House, Room 437

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-2080

Fax: 617-626-0333

# ASHBURNHAM ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# EMPLOYEE TOTAL EARNINGS

In Excess of \$500 January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leo Janssens II	1,150
Kyle Johnson	1,200
John Mulhall	683
Duncan Phyfe	366

## COUNCIL ON AGING

David Brown	6,190
Bruce Hill	15,043
Jacqueline Osolin	2,557
Janet Robbins	19,263
Michael Horniak	11,592
Gerard Thibeault	8,010
Robert Wotton	1,702

## DPW/MUNICIPAL GROUNDS/WATER & SEWER

Paul Anderson	49,984
Julie Dean	46,557
Robert Carolis	48,878
Andrew Fichtel	48,664
Philip Fischer	64,521
Robert Fortier	49,185
Martin Janhunnen	41,302
Stephen Nims	105,515
Mark Petersen	54,960
Stephen Picard	51,446
Michael Walker	44,490
David Whitney	5,444

James Zarozinski

Michael Walker

Jason Walters

## EMERGENCY DISPATCH

Susan Brennan

Donald Girard

Shawn Ilinitch

Christine Pierce

Max Rameau

Morgan Emery

Stephanie Williams

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Joseph Arsenault

Mark Boucher

John Bresnahan

Donna Burton

Casey Caruso

Jessica Croteau

James Cleveland

Elliot Cleveland

Tyson David

William Davis

Andrew Devoll

Sarah Finn

David Gambino

John Girouard

Brian Johnson

Clayton Landry

52,494

43,615

43,507

78,192

65,479

5,045

48,050

6,390

4,287

57,851

19,286

12,045

781

45,051

2,000

986

45,500

1,100

3,274

2,635

93,508

1,164

7,760

9,371

726

79,315

Raymond Lashua

Sean Marandino

Sheena Marandino

Jason McNeany

Jonathan Moorcroft

John Parow

Karen Plant

Robert Plant

Joseph Poirier

John Scofield

Noah Shields

Hilary Towne

Derek Young

Jake Zbikowski

4,717

8,425

1,828

11,655

5,433

48,490

3,255

77,531

6,757

27,405

3,263

69,766

420

148

## LAND USE/INSPECTIONS/CONCOM

Susan Brennan

Richard Cannavino

Wayne Little

Joseph Olivari

Harry Parviainen

Maurice Picard, Jr.

Richard Reynolds

Heather Ruziak

Steven Slocum

Richard Travers

Richard Turcotte

78,192

18,600

6,045

2,265

1,275

3,225

28,928

43,230

3,065

1,575

20,513



# EMPLOYEE TOTAL EARNINGS

In Excess of \$500 January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

## LIBRARY

Steven Beaupre	7,908
Carol Cringan	2,674
Chardell Davis	3,751
Emily Donnelly	62,509
Margaret French	23,237
Keith Penniman	17,839
Janet Peterson	28,514
Diana Smith	5,662
Corinne Smith	4,380

## MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

Donald Bisbee	9,520
Bruce Brackett	99,998
Brooke Czasnowski	72,731
Jane Dancause	52,485
Amy Fischer	40,659
Jordan Gendron	96,554
Jeremy Holmes	122,104
Anne Olivari	5,660
Michael Rivers	85,204
Jeffrey Schrecke	120,162
Kevin Sullivan	46,735
Matthew Wilson	122,891

## VETERANS' AGENT

Thomas Maeder	826
George Kincannon	3,050

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Loring Barrett	134,578
John Boucher III	99,139
Tyler Boudreau	33,560
Jason Bourgeois	100,997
Thomas Chabot	5,500
Christopher Conrad	108,504
Nicholas Dalton	68,430
Robert Gariepy	7,541
Gregory Gushlaw	108,266
Les Holgerson	91,709
Robert Jaillet	3,197
Kevin Kaddy	84,365
Mark Lafferty	8,531
Kristin Matthieu	36,785
Alexander Scipione	10,145
Robert Siano	96,487
Quinn Smith	79,036
Wade Wright	128,084

## TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Heather Budrewicz	115,274
Tanya Gaylord	52,470
Edward Schlott	44,876
Mary Calandrella	58,126
Jonathan Sell	5,558

## TOWN CLERK

Michelle Johnson	45,784
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## TAX COLLECTOR

Carla Clifford	24,129
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## TREASURER

Tammy Collier	59,120
Mary Ellen Kelly	49,215
Sara Paz	10,763

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## Annual Report

To the Citizens of Ashburnham:

Following the April Election, the makeup of the Board changed as follows:

Kyle Johnson (Chair)

John Mulhall (Clerk)

Leo Janssens (Member)

John Mulhall was elected to the vacant position on the board for a three (3) year term.

Mary Calandrella has grown into her role as Executive Assistant and continues to meet and exceed the performance expectations for her position. She is already an incredibly important part of the leadership team for the Town of Ashburnham and an important part of our continued success.

In her first year with the town, Heather Budrewicz has exceeded the expectations of The Board in all categories. Several departures from the town team (Treasurer Collector and Accountant) early in the year provided early opportunities for Heather to “put her stamp” on the teams and help drive her overall vision for the Town. Working closely with The Board she identified several opportunities for cost savings and performance increases that have both yielded impressive results. Heather’s continued and near-constant energy for her

job and Ashburnham continue to push every town employee to elevate their performance.

The Ashburnham Economic Development Commission has done excellent work over the course of the year and continues to be a thought and action leader for the economic future of Ashburnham. They’ve engaged with key stakeholders from the administrative, business and residential communities to help craft a new vision for Ashburnham. This group led by Chairman Bill Johnson, Vice Chair Rosemarie Meissner and Clerk, Jaclyn Wooding will continue their important work on the economic climate in Ashburnham. As we collectively work to change the narrative of The Town, they will continue to work on ways to develop and attract business while increasing the community engagement.

The Board of Selectmen’s job is to oversee the business of the town through the Town Administrator. We also bring the needs of the town to Town Meeting so you the voters can make the final decision. Given that, we welcome questions and comments. Our meetings have a beginning and ending comment period and our E Mail Addresses are listed on the town website.

We want to thank all our employees, committee and board members. Our employees are always there to help and respond. Our committee and board members serve on a voluntary basis. It’s

people who make a community and we urge everyone to become involved by voting, attending Town Meeting or joining a board or committee.

Please consult the Ashburnham Town Website ([www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov)) to find where you can volunteer to help the Town.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kyle Johnson, Chair*

*John Mulhall, Clerk*

*Leo Janssens, Member*

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

## Annual Report

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Ashburnham:

I would like to submit my second annual town report as Ashburnham's Town Administrator. 2017 was a busy year for Ashburnham, and can once again be described as a year of great strides for the Town. The Town persevered through several key personnel changes, software upgrades, service contract changes, and structural updates.

On the personnel side of the house, 2017 provided the Town with an opportunity to restructure its Finance Department, and make several new hires. In February, the Town's long-term Collector, Carla Clifford, retired and the Town appointed then Treasurer Tammy Collier to serve as the Treasurer/Collector. In the Summer/Fall months of 2017, the Treasurer/Collector and the Accountant, Tanya Gaylord, left to pursue other opportunities. In turn, after a thorough search, the Town hired Sara Paz to serve as the Town's Treasurer/Collector and Baystate Municipal Services, Inc. to provide accounting services. In the Fire Department, Interim Fire Chief Jack Parrow continued to work diligently to provide the Town with a road map for future success, improved morale, and restructured operations. In June, Chief Parrow left the department in the capable hands of incoming Fire Chief James Cleveland. In Town Hall, we said farewell to long-time Custodian Edward Schlott who retired in the Fall of 2017 and the we welcomed Jon Sell as our new custodian.

In 2017, the Town created the role for a Floater utilizing an existing member of our team. As Floater, Donna Burton was cross-trained and in many of the departments of Town Hall and allowed us to expand public hours in the Town Clerk's Office and maintain continuation of services during vacations and absences in the Treasurer/Collector's Office, Town Administrator's Office, and Land Use.

During 2017, the Town also upgraded many of its software programs. The Town switched on July 1st from MUNIS to VADAR, providing

Town Officials with a Massachusetts formatted program that better suited our needs for a reduced cost. During the same time period, the Town was awarded a Community Compact Cabinet grant from the State to purchase one year of budgeting software, Questica. Questica allows Ashburnham to move away from the excel sheet based budgets that are most common in the Commonwealth and work towards a smarter approach, entering data points once and generating reports with minimal updates on a year-to-year basis. When the software is completely implemented, the Town will be able to produce a transparent reporting method, create a five-year forecast model, track capital projects, and save countless hours on an annual basis, freeing staff up for other projects.

Around August of 2017, having appropriated funding at Town Meeting to pay off an outstanding obligation to the current IT company, the Town solicited bids for the remainder of the FY2018 and was able to obtain the services of Suzor IT, Inc. at approximately a third of the annual expense.

At the end of 2017, the Town went to Special Town Meeting in order to rebalance the Sewer Enterprise Fund and receive State approval of our Annual Tax Recap. With a change of the financial team in its entirety, an expected budget deficit was brought to light by our representative at the Division of Local Services and the Town approved a one-time transfer from the operating reserves (Operating Stabilization Fund) to the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

*Respectively submitted,*

*Heather M. Budrewicz*

*Town Administrator*

# TOWN CLERK

## Vital Statistics

The following is the breakdown of activity in the Town Clerk's Office during the past year:

### TOTAL 2017 POPULATION

**6227**

Births Recorded	44
Deaths Recorded	54
Burial Permits Issued	27
Marriage Intentions Recorded	25
Marriage Certificates Recorded	25
Business Certificates Filed	40
Raffle Permits	1
Dog Licenses	1267

### *Breakdown of Dog Licenses Used*

Kennels	3
Male	131
Female	110
Neutered Male	478
Spayed Female	545
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1267</b>

*Respectfully submitted, Michelle Johnson, Town Clerk*

# ANNUAL TOWN

## ELECTION RESULTS

### Annual Report

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ashburnham met at John R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road, Ashburnham, for the purpose of voting for the following:

The polls were open at 9:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.. The results were as follows:

### ***MODERATOR - one year term***

Keith P. Glenney	345
Blanks	72
Write-Ins	6

### ***BOARD OF SELECTMEN - three year term***

John C. Mulhall	269
ST Thomas-D'Attilio	132
Write-Ins	2
Blanks	20

### ***BOARD OF HEALTH (2) - three year term***

Patrick A Durkee	350
Write-Ins	2
Blanks	71

### ***PLANNING BOARD - five year term***

Blanks	171
Richard A Wright	218
Write-Ins	34

**TRUSTEES (2) - for three year term**

Blanks	175
Edward T. Vitone, JR	256
Jessica Lee Caouette	231
Lynne A Pinsoneault	183
Write-Ins	1

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES-one year term**

<b>Blanks</b>	77
Christine S. Eddy	344
Write-Ins	2

**MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD - for three year term**

Blanks	79
Richard M Ahlin	341
Write-Ins	3

**ASHBURNHAM/WESTMINSTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT****WESTMINSTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE - for three years**

Blanks	265
Joshua R. Schonborg	171
Justin M. Sparks	230
Bridget H. Tucker	179
Write-Ins	1

**ASHBURNHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE-3 YEARS**

Blanks	274
B. ELLEN HOLMES	285
CHRISTINE EDDY	277
Write-Ins	10

**ASHBURNHAM-REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE- 1 YEAR**

BLANKS	72
D.M. CHRISTIANSON, JR	341
WRITE-INS	10

**TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS**

4209

**TOTAL VOTED: 423****RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED****MICHELLE M. JOHNSON****TOWN CLERK**

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 2, 2017

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ashburnham met at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Drive, Ashburnham on May 2, 2017.

Newly elected Moderator Keith Glenny presided at the meeting which was called to order at 7PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence for those deceased members of our town, state and country was observed. The new Moderator introduced himself thanking Ron Reed for his years of service as Moderator. The new Town Administrator Heather Budrewicz

was introduced as was Mary Calandrella, Executive Assistant. Also introduced were

the Board of Selectman, the Advisory Board members, the School Committee members, Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager. Retired Town Clerk Linda Ramsdell performed the duties of Town Clerk due to the absence of our current Town Clerk Michelle Johnson.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 1:** To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Board of Selectmen)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND YES****ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: --****CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --****TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** Annual article to accept the reports of Town officials and boards.

**Article 1 Voted:** On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.

**Unanimous "YES"**



**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize a PILOT payment based on the annual kilowatt sales of the Light Department multiplied by a per kilowatt value from the Municipal Light Plant Funds, to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Municipal Light Department)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** The PILOT agreement is tied to the Pilot payment in the annual kilowatt sales of the light department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. This was put in place for FY13 to ease the calculation and establish a standard process for future years. In FY18 it is estimated we will receive \$67,637.

**Article 2 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous “YES”**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts

General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Treasurer)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** Allows the Treasurer to temporarily borrow operating funds for the Town to ensure payments are done in a timely manner. The Treasurer can only borrow that amount which is expected to be received.

**Article 3 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous “YES”**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** This article allows the Town Administrator to contract with the State to do road repairs in Ashburnham.

**Article 4 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous “YES”**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds which become available in the Fiscal Year 2018 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Highways, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the DPW for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation there to.

(Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** This annual article allows the Town to expend its Chapter 90 state funds. For fiscal year 2018 the amount of those funds is estimated to be \$348,003.

**Article 5 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous “YES”**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of trust fund income not to exceed \$2,500 from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund to pay for the fiscal year 2018 secondary school expenses, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** This is the transfer of funds (interest) from the Cushing Academy Trust fund (\$116,000). When the Town students were removed from Cushing Academy it was required to deposit \$114,000 into the Town's funds and the interest earned on these monies were to be used to offset the cost to the Town for secondary education in public schools.

**Article 6 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,873 from special assessments Title V Receipts Account (septic system loan program) to pay principal and interest due on notes payable to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** The Town established a Septic System Loan Program where the cost was established as betterments. Each year charges are levied on the tax bills, and the revenue required is reserved or appropriated. We then must transfer monies required to cover the loan payment.

**Article 7 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$2,500 from the Waterways Improvement Fund for the purpose of waterway improvement, maintenance, and safety, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** The Waterways Improvement Fund is funded by a portion of the boat excise tax to be used for waterways maintenance, access, law enforcement or fire prevention. The Lakes Association has been given the charge of recommending the use of these monies to the Board of Selectmen who then approve or disapprove expenditures. In the past these monies have

been used for Police boat patrols, lifesaving courses, purchase of a Police boat and other water related expenditures.

**Article 8 Voted: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was moved that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.**

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 and to set the salaries of elected officials; or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: (\$0.18)**

Setting of Elected Salaries under Article 9:

a. Town Moderator: \$100

b. Board of Selectmen: Chairman - \$1,300

Clerk - \$1,100

Member - \$1,100

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY16 Actual	FY17 Budget	FY18 Recommend
1	Moderator		100	100
2	Board of Selectmen	6,616	6,935	6,957
3	Town Administrator	172,750	187,667	169,645
4	Advisory Board	50,176	50,500	50,500
5	Town Accountant	66,443	67,660	63,251
6	Board of Assessors	108,053	111,500	111,300
7	Treasurer/Collector	-	-	152,749
8	Treasurer	110,177	122,078	
9	Tax Collector	63,819	68,383	
10	Town Clerk	52,117	57,502	51,939
11	Land Use	31,812	41,567	127,557
12	Town Hall	42,940	44,315	45,800
13	Town Buildings	137,364	154,733	153,375
14	Non-Departmental	80,732	90,681	112,791
15	IT Expense	178,027	209,666	199,317
16	Police	1,172,600	1,273,736	1,339,972
17	JRO	-	35,000	-
18	Fire	630,734	638,566	744,271
19	Emergency Dispatch	238,510	287,119	285,408
20	Inspections	97,941	91,097	-
21	Animal Control	29,000	33,850	31,000

**Brief Explanation:** Annual operating budget article as noted above is an increase of 1.80% over FY17. The revenues to offset the cost of the proposed budget come from the following sources (see next page for more).

**ARTICLE 9 VOTED:** *On motion of Ron Putnam, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,595,993 for the Departments and purposes noted in the warrant and to set the salary for all Elected Officials as printed in the warrant.*

**Majority Voice “YES”**

REVENUE	FY18
<b>Property Tax Levy</b>	
Prior Yr Levy Limit	\$ 11,131,299
2.5% Increase	\$ 278,282
New Growth	\$ 100,000
Prop 2 1/2 Override	\$ -
Debt Svc. Override -School	\$ 1,369,003
Debt Svc. Override -Municipal	\$ 595,520
<b>less overlay</b>	\$ (95,000)
<b>LEVY SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,379,104</b>
	<b>FY18</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	
State Aid	\$ 896,693
Local Receipts -	\$ 1,736,600
Other Revenue	\$ 371,845
<b>OTHER SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,005,138</b>
<b>REVENUE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,384,242</b>

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money up to \$629,733 for the operating budget of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, to be added to the sum voted under Article 9 for said operating budget, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, and further provided

that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Board of Selectmen)

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY13 SPENT	FY14 BUDGET	FY15 RECOMMEND
22	Monty Tech	462,389	445,572	450,636
23	Ash-Wes Reg. School District	6,552,760	6,727,170	6,912,170
24	Highway	735,365	718,483	733,277
25	Snow & Ice	208,370	220,000	220,000
26	Board of Health	43,607	23,719	20,368
27	Conservation Commission	25,049	30,181	25,810
28	Council on Aging	17,594	25,448	26,490
29	Veterans' Services	68,129	75,688	74,834
30	Agricultural Commission	-	300	300
31	Parks & Recreation Committee	19,900	20,550	20,490
32	Library	208,058	226,207	210,873
33	Historical Commission	-	2,000	2,000
34	Debt Service	2,001,334	1,943,085	1,884,834
35	Employee Benefits & Insurance	1,083,435	1,226,872	1,367,981
		<b>14,695,801</b>	<b>15,257,930</b>	<b>15,595,933</b>

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**  
**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**  
**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**  
**TAX RATE IMPACT: \$.87**

**Brief Explanation:** This article, if passed with a subsequent ballot question, will add monies to the AWRSD budget to support their assessment request.

**ARTICLE 10 VOTED: On motion of Dave Christianson, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$629,733 for the operating budget of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, to be added to the sum voted under Article 9 for said operating**

**budget, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, and further provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations.**

**Majority Voice "YES"**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**  
**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**  
**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**  
**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** The FY18 expenses increased by 3.85% and adequately represent direct expenses to the Enterprise Fund. Rates will be set by the Water/Sewer commission in the upcoming weeks. We will likely seek the assistance of an outside consultant to conduct a formal rate study.

**ARTICLE 11 VOTED: On motion of Ron Putnam, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$774,641 to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2017, as set forth in the Advisory Board recommendation:**

Salaries \$190,153.80  
Expense \$163,003  
Water Filtration Plant \$159,000  
Debt Service \$262,485  
Total: \$774,641

**Majority Voice "YES"**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)



**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**  
**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**  
**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**  
**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** *The FY18 expenses increased by 4.66% and adequately represents direct expenses to the Enterprise Fund. Beginning mid-FY17, an additional \$30k annual expense for bioxide additive to the pump station. Rates will be set by*

**Brief Explanation:** The Capital Planning Committee has developed a sustainable capital plan that can be funded within the raise and appropriated tax levy. This year's plan includes spending \$422,278. Revenue to offset costs for this article will come from Local Receipts. The Capital Planning Committee will convene this summer to review and update the capital planning, including the potential additional of regional school capital projects.

**ARTICLE 13 VOTED:** *On motion of Jamie Piedrafite, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$422,278 to fund the recommendation of the Capital Planning Committee to include the following:*

Trackless Snow Plow	\$ 146,250
Fire Truck Pumper-Tanker (three year lease to purchase)	\$ 190,000
Road Repair – adds to Chapter 90 funding	\$62,028
4 Police Cruiser Car #6 – replaces 2013 cruiser	\$44,000
Total	\$422,278

Unanimous “YES”

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.40, § 13E and authorize the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District to establish a reserve fund for unanticipated or unforeseen costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation, in accordance with the provisions thereof or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the AWRSD School Committee).

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**  
**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**  
**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**  
**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** Under the Acts of 2016, c. 218, § 24, the legislature added a new section to Chapter 40 of the General Laws permitting school districts that accept the statute to establish a reserve fund, out -of -district tuition or transportation from year to year going forward. Once approved by both Towns, the AWRSD will be able to put money in and take money out of this account for these purposes through a School Committee vote, and a majority vote of the selectmen in both towns.

**ARTICLE 14 VOTED:** *On motion of Dave Christianson, it was voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c.40, § 13E and authorize the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District to establish a reserve fund for unanticipated or unforeseen costs of special education, out-of district tuition or transportation, in accordance with the provisions thereof.*

Unanimous “YES”

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 53F 3/4, and establish a special revenue fund known as the “PEG Access and Cable Related Fund” to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenue for appropriation to support PEG access services, oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, the fund to commence operation for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017, and to transfer a sum of money to the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**  
**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**  
**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**  
**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** The purpose of this article is to keep revenue for purposes of cable access—need to create Special Revenue Fund for that purpose—otherwise funds will roll into General Ledger and there would be no funds for cable access TV.

**Article 15 Voted:** *On motion of Leo Janssens, it was voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 53F 3/4, and establish a special revenue fund known as the “PEG Access and Cable Related Fund” to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenue for appropriation to support PEG access services, oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, the fund to commence operation for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017, and to transfer the sum of \$28,170.62 along with any additional income from FY17 from Cable Fees Special Revenue to the PEG Access and Cable Special Revenue Account.*

Unanimous “YES”



**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town of Ashburnham will continue to appropriate their usual funding for the Ashburnham Senior Center to continue operating at the Town Hall located on the 2nd floor of 32 Main St. Ashburnham, MA 01430. (Requested by Citizen's Petition)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: --**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: --**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: --**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: --**

**Brief Explanation:** (Citizen Petition)

**ARTICLE 16 VOTED: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.**

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Stabilization Account to pay the remaining balance of the town's IT contract , or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: YES**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A**

**Brief Explanation:** This transfer will allow the town to pay the balance of its 3 year contract with Guardian (approximately \$70,119k for completed infrastructure improvements) and remove this expense from the annual operating budget, freeing up approximately \$30k going forward.

**ARTICLE 17 VOTED: On motion of Kyle Johnson, it was voted to transfer \$70,119 from the Capital Improvement Account to pay the remaining balance of the Town's IT infrastructure contract purchases**

**Unanimous "YES"**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Stabilization Account for security upgrades at the JR Briggs School including but not limited to the purchase and installation of new security software, 10 additional security cameras and 5 Door Access Panels or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES**

**ADVISORY BD. RECOMMEND: YES**

**CAPITAL PLAN. COMM. RECOMMEND: YES**

**TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A**

**Brief Explanation:** Ashburnham Dispatch has no current access to view the security feed at the JR Briggs School at this time without a security software upgrade at JR Briggs—Dispatch can see the other schools security feeds. This article will also allow for the purchase of 10 additional security cameras and 5 additional Door Access Panels.

**ARTICLE 18 VOTED: On motion of John Mulhall, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$15,500 from the Capital Improvement**

**Account for security upgrades at the JR Briggs School including but not limited to the purchase and installation of new security software, 10 additional security cameras and 5 Door Access Panels.**

**Unanimous "YES"**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted, Linda A. Ramsdell,  
Temporary Town Clerk*

# TOWN COUNSEL

## Annual Report



*“The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens.”*

*Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America*

*During Fiscal Year 2016, infrastructure and property issues dominated the legal arena. I reviewed, and approved when necessary, the financial and construction agreements for the final stage of the three-phase water main replacement project. I answered questions concerning rail trail property, rights of way, and scenic roads. I also assisted town officials with several enforcement orders related to zoning violations and other civil violations. I provided legal advice to the town on purchasing and grant expenditures.*

***In addition, I provided legal services regarding the following:***

- *Acquiring property for the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant*
- *Compliance with state DOT requirements*
- *Status of a solar project*
- *Requirements to spend certain grant funds*

- *Requirements to discontinue a town way* Town officials also called upon me from time to time for written and oral advice concerning matters pending before the various boards, commissions and committees. I advised them on the requirements and standards for various permits, and assisted the boards in interpreting relevant General Laws, the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, the town’s charter and bylaws so that they may perform their duties and responsibilities effectively and appropriately. I reviewed the articles and motions for the annual and special town meetings held this year.

*As always, I received the cooperation, support and assistance of the town’s officials in carrying out my responsibilities as Town Counsel. It is a distinct pleasure and a privilege to serve the town as its legal counsel. Thank you.*



*Respectfully submitted,*  
*C. Deborah Phillips, Town Counsel*

# FINANCE

## ADVISORY BOARD

### Annual Report

To the Citizens of Ashburnham:

The Ashburnham Advisory Board is a seven (7) member board appointed by the Town Moderator. The Advisory Board serves as the Town’s finance committee. The Advisory Board, by tradition and statute, is in place to advise town meeting on the practicality and value of any of the matters discussed during the meeting. The Town’s Reserve Fund is also controlled by the Board. The Reserve Fund provides for urgent and unforeseen expenditures that could not have been anticipated before town meeting and/or allows immediate expenditure of funds in the event of an emergency when the delay of having to call a special town meeting would have been potentially harmful.

The Town continues to make significant annual progress in the financial management area. Budget requests continue to be prioritized by the Department Heads under the direction of the Town Administrator and we provide the best possible service with the funds available to the Town.

We are pleased with the continued progress the Town has made over the past year. The Town has a consistent budget format, adequate revenue and expense forecasts, and a comprehensive Capital Plan. These tools have added significant financial

stability which has been supported by our annual independent audit and annual review from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Advisory Board for their efforts during the past year. Collectively we continue to work on behalf of the citizens of Ashburnham to improve the level and quality of services provided which will help improve the quality of life in the Town of Ashburnham. We encourage all Town residents to get involved in the process of making Ashburnham a better place by attending meetings and volunteering for committees.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Oliveira, Chair  
Ron Putnam, Vice Chair  
James Piedrafite, Secretary  
Gail Dumont  
Bruce Whitney  
Allison Weissensee  
Mike Smith*

## CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

### *Annual Report*

The Capital Planning Committee met in February 2016 to review the five year plan and prepare recommendations for capital expenditures for the Annual Town Meeting. The requests for this year's plan totals \$469,490; which is greater than our budget of \$450,000. The budget was based on an

average and with our current plan over the next 10 years, that budget should average out. It is also understood that as asset retail costs increase there will need to be a budget review.

#### ***Our budget request for this year is:***

- *Turn-out gear and Pumper-Tanker are the main focus of our Capital Plan for the Fire Department.*
- *This year's allotment will ensure that every firefighter has at least one set of updated gear.*
- *The replacement of existing 1965 tank truck and 1998 Engine with a new Pumper tanker truck will combine two existing vehicles to one more efficient vehicle for the Fire Dept. This will be a 3 year lease to buy as to keep the cost in our budget without the need for a debt exclusion article.*
- *The DPW truck replacement schedule is the same as last year and we are replacing the 2007 Pickup truck with a Ford F-350 Pickup.*
- *This year's police cruiser Capital Plan included replacing our 2013 Ford Interceptor Utility which is Car #5. The plan is generated off of the premise that each vehicle is replaced when it has 100,000 miles on it. This has allowed us to decrease the amount of maintenance that is required to keep our fleet running as well as increasing motor efficiency thus reducing fuel costs. We are also in a phase where only one cruiser is replaced each year.*
- *Our pavement plan did extremely well this year. A total of \$500,000 was spent on improving Ashburnham's roadways. Our Chapter 90 and Capital Plan subsidies covered Cashman Hill, Lawrence Street, Chapel Street, Cushing Street,*

*Lakeshore Drive (2,000 ft) and Westminster Street (2,000 ft) along with engineering for Route 101 South which is required for our TIP program for FY18.*

Traffic improvements to the intersection of Williams Road and Route 101. This will include new Blinking lights, new lighted Stop Signs, Automatic Speed Warning Signs, new road signage and road stripping at the intersection.

The Town voted the following Capital Plan unanimously at the May 3, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

DEPT	AGE	NOMENCLATURE	COST
Fire		Turnout Gear (5)	\$12,990
Fire	1965	Pumper/Tanker	\$190,000
DPW		Traffic Improvement to Williams Road and Rt 101	\$60,000
Roads		Road Repair and Maintenance	\$125,000
DPW	2007	Ford F-350 Pickup Truck	\$39,000
Police	2013	Ford Cruiser Interceptor Utility Vehicle	\$42,500

**\$469,490**

*Respectfully submitted,  
James Piedrafite, Chair  
Bill Johnson  
Joseph Kalagher  
Noel McGonigle  
Tanya Gaylord, ex officio  
Tammy Coller, ex officio  
Doug Briggs, ex officio*



# TOWN ACCOUNTANT

## Annual Report

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Ashburnham, we submit the 107th Annual report of The Town Accountant.

The Town accountant of Ashburnham is Tanya Gaylord, she has been with the Town since December of 2012. She works an average of 25 hours per week and reports directly to the 3 member board of selectmen. Her background includes 16 years of combined public, private, and audit experience. She was certified as Certified Governmental Accountant in June of 2015. As a certified accountant her responsibilities are mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

### ***Those duties include but are not limited to the following:***

- Process Bi-Weekly Warrants Payable
- Furnish departments Bi-Weekly with YTD Budget reports
- Prepare monthly/quarterly reconciliations for ; cash, receivables, tax title, and foreclosures

- Support all departments with all accounting needs from furnishing account numbers, vendor numbers, to assisting with grant processing and trust fund expenditures
- Assist the Town Administrator with the Budget process
- Work with Assessors in setting Tax rate
- Work with Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer regarding Cash accounts, Payroll, and benefits
- Annual reporting to Department of Revenue includes submitting a Combined Balance Sheet, Schedule A and completing and Certifying the Tax Recap
- Maintain Fixed Asset schedule
- Assist Auditor Annual in preparation of our Annual Audit
- Work with other departments to ensure accuracy, efficiency and timely reporting in the years to come.

Please find the following Charts and spreadsheets as a review of the position of the Town of Ashburnham as of June 30, 2017.

PART I	GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (FUND 01)	
Account Number	Item Description	Amount (Omit Cents)
	<b>A. Taxes</b>	
4110	Personal Property Taxes	246,477
4120	Real Estate Taxes	12,638,645
4150	Excise Taxes	878,976
4179	Penalties and Interest	98,540
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	67,825
4191	Other Taxes - Hotel/Motel	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excise	
4199	Other Taxes	97,697
	<b>A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)</b>	14,028,160
	<b>B. Charges for Services/Other Departmental Revenues</b>	
4211	Water Charges	
4212	Other Utility Charges	
4229	Other Charges	415,618
4243	Parking Charges	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges	
4246	Sewerage Charges	
4247	Trash Collection Charges	
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Departmental Revenues	113,324
	<b>B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</b>	528,942
	<b>C. Licenses, Permits and Fees</b>	
4322	Fees Retained From Tax Collections	
4400	Licenses and Permits	272,633
	<b>C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES</b>	272,633
	<b>D. Federal Revenue</b>	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	<b>D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	0
4600	<b>E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE</b>	936,967
	<b>F. Revenues From Other Governments</b>	
4695	Court Fines	
4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
	<b>F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS</b>	0
4750	<b>G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	
4770	<b>H. TOTAL FINES, AND FORFEITURES</b>	12,898
	<b>I. Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	63,500
4820	Earnings on Investments	3,173
	<b>I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	66,673
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES</b>	15,846,273
4990	<b>J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	22,088
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	15,868,361
	<b>K. Interfund Operating Transfers</b>	
4972	Transfers From Special Revenue Funds	53,746
4973	Transfers From Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers From Enterprise Funds	
4976	Transfers From Trust Funds	1,267
4977	Transfers From Agency Funds	
	<b>K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	55,013
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	15,923,374

General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses (Fund 01)														
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	General Government (100)												
		Legislative	Executive	Accountant/ Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Department Town/City Counsel	Public Building/ Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License and Registration	Land Use	Conservation Commission	Other
5100	Salary and Wages		183,374	44,858	49,225	78,629		42,218			44,616	33,119	26,027	
5700	Expenditures		13,403	17,940	12,159	17,875	16,023	148,130	109,294	201,692	12,319	463	651	63,782
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay													49,459
	TOTAL	0	196,777	62,798	61,384	96,504	16,023	190,348	109,294	201,692	56,935	33,582	26,678	113,241
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Public Safety (200)												
		Police	Fire	Emergency Medical Services	Inspection	Other								
5100	Salary and Wages	1,130,452	577,652		88,011	240,347								
5700	Expenditures	61,017	110,157		9,107	39,197								
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay	45,648	207,467											
	TOTAL	1,237,117	895,276	0	97,118	279,544								
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Education (300)												
		Education	Regional School Assessment (1)	Regional School Assessment (2)	Regional School Assessment (3)	Regional School Assessment (4)								
5100	Salary and Wages													
5700	Expenditures		441,942	6,477,905										
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay			249,265										
	TOTAL	0	441,942	6,727,170	0	0								
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Public Works (400)												
		Highway/Streets Snow & Ice	Highway/Streets Other	Waste Collection & Disposal	Sewerage Collection & Disposal	Water Distribution	Parking Garage	Street Lighting	Other					
5100	Salary and Wages	104,969	453,661											
5700	Expenditures	337,422	285,924											
5800A	Construction		200,310										22,605	
5800B	Capital Outlay		36,493											
	TOTAL	442,391	976,388	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,605				
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Human Services (500)												
		Health Services	Clinical Services	Special Program	Veterans' Services	Other								
5100	Salary and Wages	3,295			3,303	9,882								
5700	Expenditures	19,398			60,218	3,458								
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay													
	TOTAL	22,693	0	0	63,521	13,340								
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Culture and Recreation (600)												
		Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other							
5100	Salary and Wages	139,209												
5700	Expenditures	64,624		20,550	1,770									
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay	19,000												
	TOTAL	222,833	0	20,550	1,770	0	0							
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Debt Service (700)												
		Retirement Of Debt Principal	Interest on Long-Term Debt	Interest on Short-Term Debt	Other Interest									
5900	TOTAL	1,190,696	752,388		5,197									
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Unclassified (900)												
		Workers' Compensation	Unemployment	Health Insurance	Other Employee Benefits	Court Judgments	Other Insurance	Intergovernmental Assessments	Retirement	Other				
0001	TOTAL			549,356	824		86,781	48,777	448,173	46,382				
Account Number	Object of Expenditure	Total General Fund Expenditures												
		Total												
5100	Salary and Wages	3,252,847												
5700	Expenditures	8,546,420												
5800A	Construction	222,915												
5800B	Capital Outlay	607,332												
5900	Debt Service	1,948,281												
0001	Unclassified	1,180,293												
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	15,758,088												
		Transfers / Other Financing Uses												
5960	Transfers To Other Funds	219,823												
5990	Other Financing Uses													
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	219,823												
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES						15,977,911								



Part V Enterprise Funds						
Account Number	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Electric	Total All Enterprise Funds	
	REVENUES					
4100	Taxes and Excises					
4200	Charges for Services	739,348	762,638	5,183,795		6,685,781
4500	Federal Revenue					0
4600	State Revenue					0
4800	Miscellaneous Revenue			343,078		343,078
4820	Earnings on Investments					0
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	739,348	762,638	5,526,873		7,028,859
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
4910	Bond Proceeds					0
4970	Transfers From Other Funds					0
4990	Other Financing Sources					0
	<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	0	0	0		0
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	739,348	762,638	5,526,873		7,028,859
	EXPENSES					
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenses	173690	129635	805713		1,109,038
5800A	Construction	211,986	283,046	4,323,941		4,818,973
5800B	Capital Outlay					0
5900	Debt Service	336,797	408,735			745,532
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	722,473	821,416	5,129,654		6,673,543
	OTHER FINANCING USES					
5960	Transfers To Other Funds					0
5990	Other Financing Uses					0
	<b>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES</b>	0	0	0		0
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AND OTHER FINANCING USES</b>	722,473	821,416	5,129,654		6,673,543
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	16,875	-58,778	397,219		355,316

Town of Ashburnham, MA  
Balance Sheet (Unaudited)  
June 30, 2016

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Project Fund	Enterprise Funds	Trust & Agency	Long-term Debt Account Group	Total
<b>Assets:</b>							
Cash	\$ 1,872,294	\$ 393,364	\$ -	\$ 2,585,436	\$ \$ 2,020,402	\$ -	\$ 6,871,496
Personal property	3,464	-	-	-	-	-	3,464
Real estate tax	447,633	-	-	-	-	-	447,633
Liens	485,672	(0)	-	134,985	-	-	620,656
Ambulance	235,848	-	-	-	-	-	235,848
Motor vehicle	103,607	-	-	-	-	-	103,607
Boat excise	754	-	-	-	-	-	754
Other accounts receivable	36,963	-	-	1,437	-	-	38,400
Tax foreclosures	690,330	-	-	-	-	-	690,330
Assessments	-	98,206	-	29,537	-	-	127,743
Departmental receivables	-	-	-	197,805	-	-	197,805
Amounts to be provided	-	-	-	-	-	20,598,357	20,598,357
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,876,565</b>	<b>\$ 491,569</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,949,200</b>	<b>\$ \$ 2,020,402</b>	<b>\$ 20,598,357</b>	<b>\$ 29,936,093</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Warrants payable	\$ 246,553	\$ 743	\$ -	\$ 1,291	\$ \$ -	\$ -	\$ 248,587
Performance Bonds	10,858	-	-	-	-	-	10,858
Withholdings	84,004	-	-	-	-	-	84,004
Due to the State	1,738	-	-	-	-	-	1,738
Deferred revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overlay	17,676	-	-	-	-	-	17,676
Deferred revenue	1,949,631	98,206	-	362,327	-	-	2,410,164
Other liabilities	50,300	4,407	-	2,799	15,753	-	73,259
Notes payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds payable	-	-	-	-	-	20,598,357	20,598,357
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,360,759</b>	<b>103,356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>366,417</b>	<b>15,753</b>	<b>20,598,357</b>	<b>23,444,642</b>
<b>Fund balance:</b>							
Reserved for encumbrances	34,746	-	-	250	-	-	34,996
Reserved for expenditures	346,504	-	-	-	-	-	346,504
Reserved for unappropriated Snow & Ice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for unappropriated abatements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for Debt Excl Premium	756,153	-	-	-	-	-	756,153
Reserved For Debt Service Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreserved fund balance	378,401	388,214	-	2,582,533	2,004,649	-	5,353,797
<b>Total fund balance</b>	<b>1,515,805</b>	<b>388,214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,582,783</b>	<b>2,004,649</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,491,451</b>
<b>Total fund balance and liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 3,876,565</b>	<b>\$ 491,569</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,949,200</b>	<b>\$ \$ 2,020,402</b>	<b>\$ 20,598,357</b>	<b>\$ 29,936,093</b>

# BOARD OF ASSESSORS

## Annual Report

### *To the Citizens of Ashburnham:*

The Board of Assessors is responsible for the valuation of real estate and personal property subject to taxation. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is responsible for motor vehicle valuations and supplies the data for excise bills. Assessed values for Real and Personal Property are based on “full and fair cash value” as of the January 1st preceding each fiscal year.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any assessing issues, please feel free to contact Sherri DiPasquale, Administrative Assessor, at 978-827-4100 x111 or by email at assessors@ashburnham-ma.gov. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM or by appointment. The board will meet at 5:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. Additional information is available on the town website at [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov)

Please refer to the *Fiscal 2017 Assessments and Revenues by Major Property Class Chart*, to the right.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Assessors

**Walter Harrington, Chair**  
**Donna Burton, Member**

### **Staff:**

**Harald Scheid, Regional Tax Assessor**

**Linda Couture, Regional Associate Assessor**

**Sherri DiPasquale, Administrative Assistant**  
**Assessor**

PROPERTY CLASS	LEVY PERCENT	VALUATION BY CLASS	TAX RATE	TAX LEVY
Residential	95.0004	545,329,574	22.97	12,526,220.31
Open Space	-0-	-0-	22.97	-0-
Commercial	2.3615	13,555,600	22.97	311,372.13
Industrial	0.7476	4,291,300	22.97	98,571.16
Personal Property	1.8905	10,852,315	22.97	249,277.68
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>574,028,789</b>	<b>22.97</b>	<b>13,185,441.28</b>

### VALUATION AND TAX HISTORY

FISCAL YEAR	TAX RATE	TOTAL VALUATION	ACCOUNTS	TAX LEVY	CHANGE (%)
2017	2.97	574,028,789	4,019	13,185,441.28	.0243
2016	22.75	565,846,177	4,022	12,873,000.53	.0246
2015	22.28	563,925,497	4,052	12,564,260.07	.1306
2014	19.83	560,427,319	4,045	11,113,273.74	.0293
2013	18.85	572,781,675	4,060	10,796,934.58	.0225
2012	18.34	575,771,428	4,087	10,559,647.99	.0147
2011	17.15	606,776,865	4,116	10,406,223.24	.0268

### FISCAL YEAR 2017 ABSTRACT OF ASSESSMENTS

PROPERTY CLASS CODE/DESCRIPTION	ACCTS	CLASS VALUATION	AVG VALUE
012 – 043 Mixed Use Properties	11	3,434,635	312,240
101 Residential Single Family	2,414	492,720,339	204,110
102 Residential Condominiums	14	2,510,800	179,343
104 Residential Two Family	39	6,958,600	178,426
105 Residential Three Family	6	1,315,100	219,183
Miscellaneous Residential	41	8,303,100	202,515
111 – 125 Apartments	4	1,329,100	332,275
130 – 132, 106 Vacant Land	968	30,635,000	31,648
300 – 393 Commercial	41	9,532,600	232,502
400 – 442 Industrial	29	4,291,300	147,976
501 – 508 Personal Property	356	10,852,315	30,484
600 – 821 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B	96	2,145,900	22,353
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>574,028,789</b>	

### ASSESSOR’S ACCOUNT FOR EXEMPTIONS AND ABATEMENTS

DESCRIPTION	FY2017	FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013
Assessor’s Overlay	95,104.57	92,931.00	84,101.07	91,528.74	98,491.58
Overlay Deficits	17,676.73	8,332.86	10,129.00	-0-	-0-
Charges to 6/30/2017	90,005.34	101,263.86	94,230.07	91,528.74	92,908.30

### NEW GROWTH REVENUE

FISCAL YEAR	ADDED VALUATION	TAX RATE	NEW REVENUES	CHANGE (%)
2017	4,753,201	22.97	108,135	-.2886
2016	3,766,440	22.75	83,916	-.4960
2015	8,395,572	22.28	166,485	1.9506
2014	2,993,326	19.83	56,424	.4388
2013	2,138,242	18.85	39,216	.9696
2012	1,160,968	18.34	19,911	-.8030
2011	6,258,814	17.15	101,080	.2610



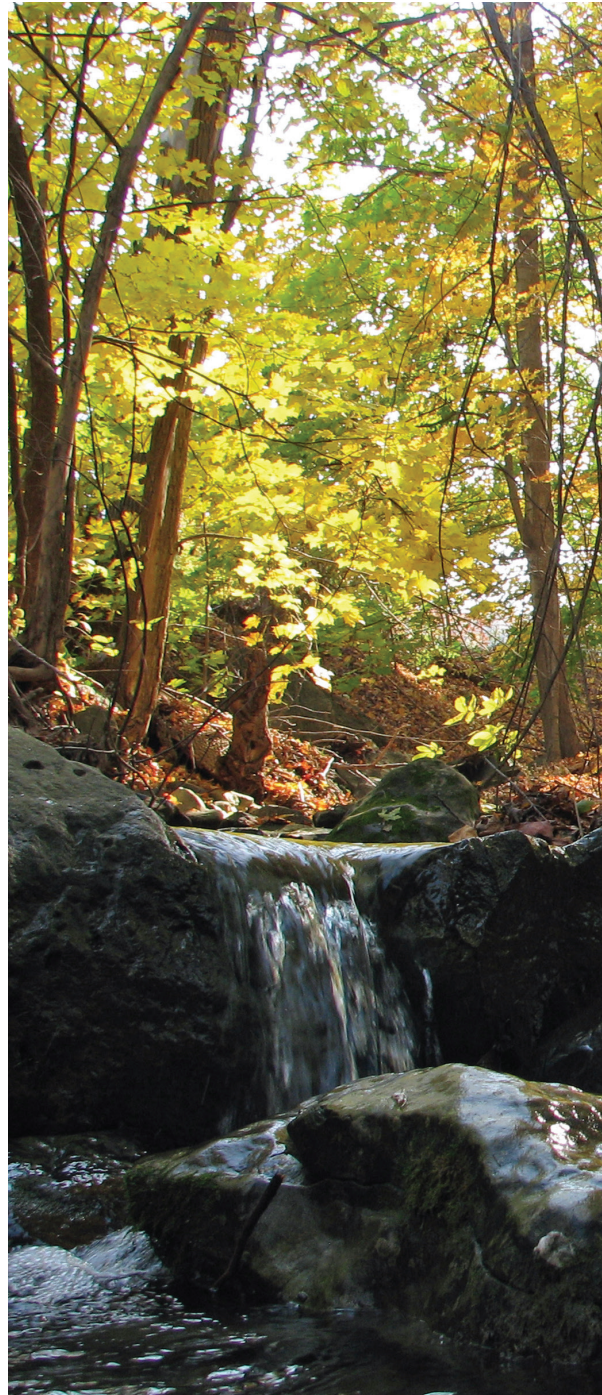
# LAND USE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Annual Report

*To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Ashburnham:*

During the 2017 calendar year, the Ashburnham Conservation Commission (ACC) held sixteen (16) public meetings, reviewed approximately 43 applications, and worked with numerous potential applicants, lake associations, lands trusts and State agencies. Our steady workload included the processing of six (6) Determinations of Negligible Impact, five (5) Requests for/ Determinations of Applicability, eighteen (18) Notices of Intent/Orders of Conditions, three (3) Extended Order of Conditions, eleven (11) Certificates of Compliance and three (3) Enforcement Orders. The Commission and its Agent also reviewed twelve (12) Forest Cutting Plans and three (3) Aquatic Vegetation Management and four (4) Lake Drawdown programs.

In addition to administering the State's Wetlands Protection Act, the River's Act and the Ashburnham Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Commission continued its role as land stewards at the Bush Hill property north of Tuckerman Road. This property is owned by the Town of Ashburnham, under the care and management of the Commission. The paramount goals/objectives of these forest management services are to promote biodiversity, protect



water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase access for recreational purposes, among others. Commissioner Chris Picone also continued his ongoing efforts with respect to preparation of the annual Thoma Property Forest Monitoring Report, a requirement of the Forest Legacy Program for the Conservation Restriction held on that property.

What can only be categorized as a major milestone for the Commission and the Town was the approval by the MA Division of Conservation Services (DCS) of the Ashburnham Open Space & Recreation Plan 2014 Update. This OSRP 2014 Update has been over a decade in the making. During this period, members of the Commission, along with many Town residents and non-residents, alike, graciously volunteered their time and services in an effort to update the 2001 OSRP. In the summer of 2014 and with the ACC's 'blessing', Charlotte Levy, a MassLIFT/AmeriCorps Regional Conservation Coordinator under the leadership of Janet Morrison, former Executive Director of the North County Land Trust, 'took hold of the reins', compiling and organizing existing data/plans, updating information and redrafting text, where necessary, and arranging for the public information meeting held on 31 July 2014.

Subsequently, based on comments received from the DCS on the initial draft of the OSRP 2014 Update, the document was supplemented as requested by the DCS and re-submitted for review/approval. By letter dated 7 August 2017, the DCS issued its

approval of the OSRP 2014 Update. As such, the Town now may seek State grants for a variety of projects relative to the acquisition of conservation and parkland, as well as for park renovation and development. The next OSRP Update is scheduled for 2022. Volunteers to assist in this effort, albeit years ahead, are encouraged to contact the Commission!

Throughout the years and in addition to those noted above, indispensable input and guidance to the OSRP 2104 Update also were provided by Gary Howland, President of the Ashburnham Conservation Trust (ACT), as well as Lorraine De Souza of ACT and exPressive Print and Promotion. With limited assistance, all of these dedicated individuals and contributors worked diligently to make the OSRP 2014 Update a reality!

As before, the enforcement of State/Municipal wetlands regulations continues to be a difficult task due to time management and only part-time staffing. Regardless, the Commission continues to enforce observed violations, such as illegal dock construction, land clearing and the alteration of wetland resource areas. Such actions especially are a concern from a wetland conservation/protection perspective. Consequently, when considering site development, disturbance or even the cutting of trees near a wetland, lake or stream, property owners are encouraged to contact the Conservation Office to determine the need for prior Commission approval.

The Conservation Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. To meet or speak with the Commission, please contact Conservation Agent Richard Turcotte in the Land Use Office (Town Hall/Lower Level) on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 978-827-4100 extension 4, option 2.

*Respectfully submitted by the Conservation*

*Commission,*

*Marshall Dennis, Chairman*

*Chris Picone*

*Linda Couture*

*Andrew Henderson*

*Richard Turcotte, Conservation Agent*

## **PLANNING BOARD**

### **Annual Report**

#### ***To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:***

The Ashburnham Planning Board consists of five (5) elected members and one (1) appointed associate member (currently vacant). The Board has the responsibility of reviewing proposed development projects (residential subdivisions, business/commercial and industrial site plans, Common Driveway Special Permits, Open Space Residential Developments, Accessory Dwelling Unit Special Permits and Scenic Road Permits) and makes decisions on them in accordance with state/local bylaws & regulations. The Zoning Bylaw also allows the Board to review major residential developments to preserve the natural and cultural resources of Ashburnham by insuring the larger-scale of conversion of land to residential use does not consume all

of the Town's woodlands, fields, farmlands, historic structures and landscapes, cart paths, stonewalls, geologic formations, water courses, wetlands, riparian zones, groundwater recharge areas, hilltops, scenic vistas, and other significant open spaces as well as providing a public voice and public authority in consideration of alternative approaches to conventional residential developments.

The Planning Board's official powers and responsibilities are provided through the Ashburnham Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Bylaws and as prescribed under the authority of the Subdivision Control Law enacted under Chapter 41, Section 81A-81GG of the Massachusetts General Laws. These rules and regulations have been enacted for the purpose of protecting the safety, convenience and welfare of the inhabitants of Ashburnham by regulating the laying out and construction of ways in subdivisions and providing access to lots therein.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Land Use Administrator Heather Ruziak and Land Use Clerk Donna Burton for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. Heather and Donna are the first people that the public interacts with as our Board is part time and only meets at night Heather and Donna are the face of the Board during Town Hall business hours.

Following the 2017 Annual Town election, Richard Wright was elected to the board for a 5 year term. The five-



member board reorganized and Roger Hoyt was elected to the position of Chairman, Richard Wright was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman, and William Nolan elected to serve as Clerk to the Board. The Planning Board regularly met on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The Board continues to monitor previously approved Lakeview Estates, Cashman Hill Estates, Bray Avenue subdivisions and Lakeside Village condominiums during the construction process. During 2017 work continued at the Lakeside Village condominiums. The Board is pleased to announce that the Cashman Hill Estates project that was purchased by Benjamin Builders is nearing completion and full build out. Work is continuing on the Lakeside Village project and is expected to be completed in the coming year.

No new Preliminary or Definitive Subdivisions were submitted to the Board during 2017.

The Board did perform a Site Plan Review for renovations and additions to the dining hall facilities and Ashburnham House at Cushing Academy on School Street these facilities are expected to be completed in the fall of 2018. The Board approved multiple ANR plans during the year.

The Board anticipates having to create a new By-Law for recreational marijuana retail facilities once regulations are promulgated by the Commonwealth in regards to this new issue. As always any changes will require a public hearing for

additional public input, Town Meeting acceptance and approval by the Attorney General.

The Board was informed by William Nolan that he would not be seeking re-election at the completion of his term. William has indicated that he would be interested in serving as the associate member. William started his tenure with the Board in 2008 serving two terms. The Board would like to thank William for all his hard work while working with the Board on behalf of the Town. The Board is seeking a replacement for the open position that will be created when William's term expires.

The Planning Board continues to have a great deal of information on the Town's new website it can be viewed at [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov) The Planning Board may also be contacted by e-mail at [planningbd@ashburnham-ma.gov](mailto:planningbd@ashburnham-ma.gov) We welcome your comments on the website. The Board also conducts Open Discussion at the start of each meeting, those having questions and concerns about the planning process in the town are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Roger Hoyt, Chair**  
**Richard Wright, Vice Chair**  
**William Nolan, Clerk**  
**Joseph Kalagher**  
**George Cornwall**  
**Associate Member – Vacant**

## **SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

### **Annual Report**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Citizens of Ashburnham, as the Sealer of Weights & Measures, I submit the following activity report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

- Scales 14 Inspected 14 Sealed
- Fuel Pumps 16 Inspected 16 Sealed
- Fuel Oil Trucks 8 Inspected 8 Sealed
- Scanners 3 Verified
- Salary 3,065.00
- Total Fees Collected 1,150.00

Also, I attended the annual conference of the Massachusetts Weights & Measures Association held in Marlboro, Massachusetts in September. This conference included training and briefings on regulations and procedures. Additionally, I am a member of the National Conference of Weights & Measures, from which I receive technical manuals and training materials to maintain my certification.

Special thanks to the Town Hall staff for their assistance during the year.

**Respectfully submitted:**  
**Steven E. Slocum , Sealer of Weights & Measures**

# BUILDING COMMISSIONER

## Annual Report

The Town of Ashburnham Inspections Department strives to achieve excellence in all facets of building inspection through providing timely, efficient and thorough inspections.

We are committed to providing quality service to all citizens through innovation, continuous improvement, determination and excellence in customer service.

We believe that through education and cooperation, we can build positive working relationships within the building community, consumers and citizens alike.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard C. Reynolds, Building Commissioner  
Zoning Enforcement Officer

<u>Purpose of Building Permits</u>	<u>of Permits</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
New 1 & 2 Family Dwellings	19	\$43,951.00	\$3,790,000.00
Additions/Alterations/Accessory Buildings	152	\$24,323.95	\$1,252,620.00
Commercial, Industrial, Municipal	15	\$113,820.75	\$16,461,847.00
Solar	0		
Swimming Pools	4	\$300.00	na
Stove Permits	17	\$850.00	na
Demolition	7	\$650.00	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>\$183,895.70</b>	<b>\$21,504,467.00</b>

### Fees Collected 2017

Building Permits	214	\$183,895.70
Safety Permits	46	\$4,840.00
Electrical Permits	147	\$38,719.66
Plumbing & Gas Permits	148	\$23,503.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>\$250,958.36</b>

# ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

## Annual Report

*To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Residents of the Town of Ashburnham:*

As Inspector of Wires I submit the following report of activity for the year ending December 31, 2017.

<b>Electrical Permits</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$ 38,719.66</b>
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It is required that prior to the performance of any electrical work, an Electrical Permit must be obtained as required by Law and must be performed by a licensed and qualified electrician. An electrical permit

will be issued only if a licensed electrician is performing the work. The State Workers Compensation form needs to be submitted with the electrical permit along with a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

The Electrical Inspectors job is to ensure that the State Electrical Code is strictly, yet fairly, enforced in order that electrical systems work may be completed and operating safely in a timely manner through:

- Customer service at initial contact and throughout the process that is responsive and helpful, whether for a construction project or complaint resolution
- Plan and application review for Electrical Code compliance
- Issuance of Electrical Permits
- Thorough professional completion of all field inspections
- Inspection for Occupancy Permits

Permits are available at the Town Hall Land Use Office during regular business hours and also available on-line at [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov).

I would like to thank Heather Ruziak for her service as the Land Use Administrator and Donna Burton, Land Use Clerk. I would also like to thank the Assistant Inspectors, Joseph Olivari, Loring Barrett and Harry Paraviainen, as well as the cooperation of all the other town departments.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Richard Cannavino**  
**Electrical Inspector**

# PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTOR

## Annual Report

Plumbing & Gas Permits	148	\$23,503.00
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To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Ashburnham:

The following report of the Inspector of Plumbing and Gas is submitted for your approval for the year ending December 31, 2017.

The law requires that a plumbing and/or gas permit be obtained prior to any work being performed. Plumbing and/or gas should be done by a duly licensed and qualified plumber. The State Workers Compensation form needs to be submitted with the plumbing/gas permit along with a Certificate of Liability Insurance.

Plumbing and gas fitting installations are controlled through enforcement of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Uniform Plumbing & Gas Codes. The Plumbing & Gas Inspector issues permits for installation of gas piping and appliances, plumbing, and conducts pre-sewer installation inspections. Inspections are conducted as necessary to ensure compliance with State Codes, and final inspections are conducted for the purpose of issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

The plumbing/gas inspectors main objective is to ensure that the State Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes are strictly, yet fairly, enforced in order that plumbing and fuel gas systems work may be completed and operating safely in a timely manner through:

- Customer service at initial contact and throughout the process that is responsive and helpful, whether for a construction project or complaint resolution
- Plan and application review for Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes compliance
- Issuance of Plumbing and Gas Permits
- Thorough professional completion of all field inspections
- Inspection for Occupancy Permits
- Maintenance of accurate and complete records

Permits are available during regular business hours at the Town Hall Land Use Office and also available on line at [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov).

I would like to thank Heather Ruziak for her service as the Town's Land Use Administrator and Donna Burton, Land Use Clerk. Additionally, I would also like to thank Dave Baldini, the Assistant Plumbing Inspector, for his assistance throughout the year.

***Respectfully Submitted, Wayne Little***

***Plumbing/Gas Inspector***

# ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

## Annual Report

*Respectfully Submitted by ZBA Board;*

### Zoning Board of Appeals 2017 Annual Report

17-01 Craig Pultorak	17-01-A Craig Pultorak	17-02 - Scott Bingham & John Rahalm
<p>Variance from Section 4.2 (Schedule of Dimensional Regulations) to allow a one bedroom, single family home to be built on the property located at 2 Brogan Lane.</p> <p><b>Date of Application:</b> 3/29/17  <b>Date of Hearing:</b> 3/29/17  <b>Date of Decision:</b> 3/29/17</p> <p><b>Finding:</b> The board finds that Section 1.42 applies to this application and a Special Permit may be sought based on previous footprint. The board finds the granting of the Special Permit does not harm the neighborhood nor derogate from the intent of the bylaw.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Unanimous to grant Special Permit from Section 1.42 with conditions.</p> <p><b>Conditions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footprint of 890 sq.ft. home, dated 2013.</li> <li>Front setback must be at least 35 feet from road.</li> <li>Side setback must be at least 15 feet from the property lines.</li> <li>Height not to exceed 35 feet.</li> </ol>	<p>Modification of Special Permit 17-01. The request to build a covered porch on front of the house which will change the original setback issued by ZBA in the decision 17-01, on the property located at 2 Brogan Lane.</p> <p><b>Date of Application:</b> 7/27/17  <b>Date of Hearing:</b> 8/23/17  <b>Date of Decision:</b> 8/23/17</p> <p><b>Finding:</b> The board finds that the granting of the modification along with conditions would be consistent with original SP 17-01 and the granting of this modification does not harm the neighborhood nor derogate from the intent of the original Special Permit.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Approved- 4 Yes, 1 No</p> <p><b>Conditions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered porch is open.</li> <li>Stairs are to be put on either side (not front).</li> <li>Porch will be 20 x 4.</li> </ol>	<p>Modification of Variance (2-77). The request to modify stipulations of usage of the barn located at 68 Center Street.</p> <p><b>Date of Application:</b> 10/17/17  <b>Date of Hearings:</b> 11/7/17  <b>Date of Decision:</b> 11/7/17</p> <p><b>Finding:</b> The board finds that the modification does not derogate from the intent of the By-Laws nor does it harm the neighborhood.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Unanimous to grant Modification of Variance 2-77 with additional Conditions.</p> <p><b>Conditions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garage shall conform to plans submitted on 11/8/17 (exhibit A).</li> <li>The garage may be used as a residential/commercial garage or as a garage for storage.</li> <li>The garage may not be used as a repair garage.</li> <li>The noise level from starting and running vehicles in the garage shall be no greater or no more objectionable than it is at present (No change from #4 of 2-77).</li> <li>No signs are to be attached to the garage. (No changes from #5 of 2-77).</li> <li>The garage shall conform to all set back requirements. (No change from #6 of 2-77).</li> <li>There will be no outside storage.</li> </ol>

*David Perry, Terry Girouard, Rich Archer, Mark Carlisle,  
Heather Carlisle, Ken Mullen, Cheryl Anderson*

# TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

## Annual Report

**To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Residents of Ashburnham, I am honored to submit the 1st annual Technology Department report for the Town of Ashburnham.**

In 2017 the Town of Ashburnham partnered with Suzor IT to provide outsourced Information Technology Services to the town. As many of us know, technology is the life blood of any organization in the 21st century. The team at Suzor IT is excited to work with Ashburnham to advance and improve municipal functions by integrating technology in a meaningful way for town departments.

We spent most of our time in 2017 working with Town Departments to develop a strong vision of where the town should be in the next 5 years. In the next 5 years, the Town will be focused on implementing a fiber optic internet connection to reduce downtime, cloud hosted applications to improve mobility and reliability, and implementing modern workspaces to improve efficiency.

The Suzor IT team is excited to become a community partner in the Town of Ashburnham and we look forward to continued work with Town Departments.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Suzor, President Suzor IT*



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Annual Report



L-R Officer Quinn Smith, Sgt. Gregg Gushlaw, Chief Loring Barrett and Lt. Chris Conrac

To the honorable Residents of Ashburnham:

It gives me great pleasure to submit the 2017 Annual Report for the Ashburnham Police Department.

The Ashburnham Police Department continues to collectively strive to provide the best service possible to the residents of Ashburnham. We are always looking for a cost effective way to increase our ability to serve at the highest level. This is accomplished in many different ways including maintaining adequate manpower, required equipment and technology, strategic enforcement, professional and specialized training. Since becoming your Chief in 2005, all of these goals have been included in my yearly updated five year

plan; of which I submit with the annual budget for the police department. Although it has been a challenge and we had to think outside the norm, we have accomplished most and in many ways all of those goals with the support of the town officials and most important the residents.

In 2017, we have seen our crime rates in Ashburnham stabilize from previous years and we have seen a reduction with the opiate crisis in our community, especially the overdose rate. I believe the town's continued support to the police department and the commitment and dedication of your police officers is the primary factors in our success. When we in law enforcement have seen the criticism and attacks on our profession in recent years it's easy for that to have negative effects on those that serve. But I am proud to say that we have stayed focused and committed to our job and responsibilities and continue to excel in our profession and the service that we provide. The number one complaint from our residents is traffic issues. You will see that we have increased our enforcement in this area by the 2017 motor vehicle violation breakdown located in this report. This increase in traffic enforcement has a direct correlation with the more than 10% reduction in motor vehicle accidents.

In 2016 and 2017, we have focused on reducing accidents in Ashburnham by looking at location and causes of accidents in areas of concern based on statistical data. Two areas that have been addressed are the intersection at Rt101 and Corey Hill

Road with a number of traffic improvements made there. This has resulted in a dramatic decrease in accidents since the changes have been made. The other is the Russell Hill Road area, this location has seen an increase in traffic since the road was repaved and accidents have increased because of it. We are in the process of installing speed reduction and safety signs to hopefully help reduce those accidents. As we are always looking to improve as a police force, it is important to remember that the public is our best tool to be successful. You are the eyes and ears that we need in order to resolved and address issues we deal with on a daily basis. So if you see or hear something that is concerning please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Public Safety Personnel:

A couple of changes were made in the rank and file in 2017. I would first like to thank our town officials and the residents of Ashburnham for their continued support in maintaining our current staff level in 2017.



Detective Rob Siano with some trick or treaters on Main Street on Ha



Because of a full-time police officer vacancy in late 2016, we interviewed and appointed Quinn Smith as a full-time police officer effective on January 1, 2017. Quinn had worked for us as a part-time officer in the past and was a full-time Fitchburg police officer at the time of his appointment. In mid-January, Officer Gregg Gushlaw was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Sergeant Chris Conrad was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. In the FY18 police budget, changes were made to allow for the appointment of one additional patrol officer. This appointment will allow for our detective to primarily focus on investigations and not split time with patrol duties. This change will have a major effect on our success to effectively and timely follow up on investigations. We are currently conducting a thorough process to hire this officer. I would like to congratulate those officers on their appointments and promotions.

L-R Officer Quinn Smith, Sgt. Gregg Gushlaw, Chief Loring Barrett and Lt. Chris Conrad

## Training:

Training continues and always will be a priority within the department. All officers are required to attend mandatory yearly training programs and various specialized training programs. Police departments throughout Massachusetts continue to have mandatory training requirements set by the State Municipal Police Training Council, but at the same time we see our training resources and funding from the State shrink. This places the burden on our community

to seek out and put together the training at our expense. This has been problematic for a number of years and we continue to be creative in order to meet these training requirements.

Ashburnham will continue to train its police officers at a level that exceeds the state standards. We will do this by utilizing our own certified trainers, web based training and sharing training resources with other area departments to keep the cost as low as possible.



Some of the training programs attended are:

1. CPR/First Responder Certification
2. Automatic Defibrillator Training and Certification
3. NARCAN Certification
4. Firearms Training and Certification
5. Firearms Instructor Certification



6. Tactical Training
7. Taser Training & Certification
8. Narcotics Investigations
9. Breathalyzer Certification
10. Child Safety Restraints
11. Sexual Assault & Rape Investigation
12. Administrative Training
13. Pepper Spray/ Baton Certification
14. Defensive Tactics
15. A.L.I.C.E. – Active Shooter Certification
16. Various Juvenile Training
17. Safe School Summit
18. Emergency Vehicle Operations
19. Supervisor/Administrative Training

## Community Policing:

The police department continues to maintain a Web site at [www.ashburnhampd.org](http://www.ashburnhampd.org) and we are active on Facebook and Twitter. All of these sites are maintained to provide a positive and effective communication tool between the police department and the public. On numerous occasions social media has been used to seek the public's help in identifying suspects that have committed crimes in Ashburnham.

Officer Nick Dalton is certified as a child safety car seat technician. Officer Dalton will be holding periodic weekend child safety seat programs throughout the year or if time is of the essence please contact Officers Dalton at the police department to schedule and appointment to install your child seat.

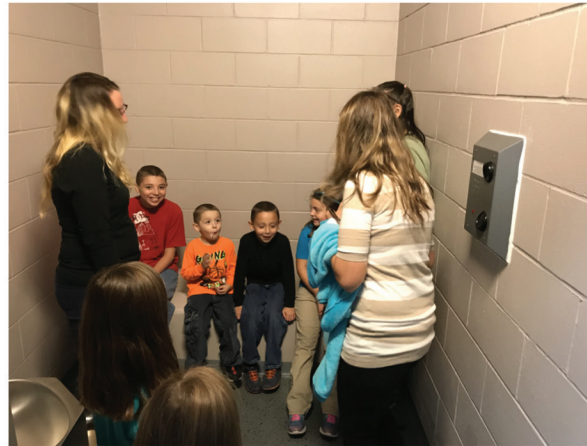
Too many child car seats are installed improperly and directly result in infant and child injuries that could have been avoided.

The Town has again contracted with Emergency Communications Network (NEC) or also known as Code Red. This system allows the town to contact those who choose to sign up for the program via home telephone, cell phone, text or e-mail with important emergency and non-emergency information. I urge you to go to <http://cne.coderedweb.com> and sign up or you can go to [www.ashburnham-us.gov](http://www.ashburnham-us.gov) and click on Code Red to sign up. Your information remains private and will only be used for this purpose.

The police department accepts unused/expired RX medication and syringes for safe and proper disposal. Both bins are clearly marked and are located in the lobby of the PSB designated for this purpose, the RX medications and syringes can be dropped off at any time.



SRO John Boucher instructing staff from the school district on the ALICE program.



Parents and their kids get a tour of a cell during our open house in October.

## School Safety:

This year marks a successful 3rd year in the AWRSD district and we continue to find ways to build the School Resource Officer program. The Ash/West SRO program is collaboration between Ashburnham and Westminster police, AWRSD educators, students and parents. We work together with a shared goal of student success by integrating into the school community as mentors, informal counselors and law enforcement officers.

As School Resource Officers we educate, counsel and protect our AWRSD school community. Our goal is to provide safe, secure learning environments and strengthen relationships that build bridges between officers and students. We promote a positive police image as someone to go to when help is needed.

Officer's John Boucher and Quinn Smith are assigned to the SRO program representing the Ashburnham Police Department and have receive specialized

Juvenile Training and stay informed on topics relevant to our students today. With the risks and challenges our kids face, our efforts are focused on staying connected with youth culture to identify the trends, technologies and approaches that best protect our children and find credible ways to speak their language in a quickly evolving world.

The National Association of School Resource Officer Certification (NASRO) and Massachusetts Juvenile Police Officer Association partnerships have expanded



Officer Quinn Smith showing a student some of the equipment in his cruiser.

our network and helped us establish relationships with local social service, state and federal agencies and school based organizations that provide support, knowledge base and resources to address changing school needs efficiently. One of this year's highlights was meeting and discussing school safety with retired Columbine High School Principal Frank DeAngelis who provided insight into his





School Resource Officer John Boucher with students on walk to school day.

experience and aftermath from the tragedy at Columbine and his lessons learned for effective school safety planning.

With the integration of our district wide critical incident safety drills based on the A.L.I.C.E. protocol. Drills and participation in our monthly AWRSD Public Safety round table discussions and as a key stakeholder in the annual AWRSD critical incident planning initiatives, we have built some momentum around district wide and building-specific improvement opportunities. As part of an integrated team of administration, guidance counselors, nursing, teachers and outside social service resources, we are continuously discussing a range of scenarios from bus accidents to weapon threats to medical responses. We continue to focus and prioritize short and long term improvement opportunities with the goal of serving and protecting all of our children.

One of our top highlights this year was the implementation of an Emergency

Notification App that allows for district wide notification and reduces first responder response time to critical incidents. Early on in our in our Critical incident Safety Drill discussions, we identified an opportunity to improve our communication between staff, responding agencies and other schools in the district. With our staff and students access to cellphones during the school day, we identified an emergency notification app as a key opportunity to address some of our communication needs.

RAD Women's Self Defense: Ashburnham SRO's Officer Boucher and Smith were trained this past year and are now certified RAD instructors. The Women's Self Defense (RAD) courses have been integrated into Mrs. Roy's Women's Health Class Curriculum at Oakmont annually during the fall semester. This fall approximately 60 female high school students successfully completed the RAD basic course as part of their class requirements. An annual spring class is planned for Overlook Middle School



SRO Officers with students from a RAD class.

students as an after school program and adult classes for Ashburnham residents are being offered to community members wishing to get certified.

As we continue to build on the success of the SRO program in our school district, we would like to thank the members of the school administration, teachers and support staff, students and parents for their continued support and efforts in making our schools safe.

## Detective Report

The detectives responsibilities in Ashburnham continues to be split between regular patrol duties and conducting criminal investigations. Many of the types of crimes that we see today in our communities such as sexual assaults, narcotics violations, cyber-crime and identity theft, require specialized training and numerous man hours. With the hiring of an additional officer in late 2017, the detective will be able to focus primarily on his responsibilities as a detective improving the efficiency of his case work.

The detective will continue to work closely with other communities and task forces as we know criminals often travel from community to community commit crimes.

## Traffic:

The Ashburnham Police Department continues to target aggressive drivers, seatbelt violations and impaired drivers. The Ashburnham Police Department is committed to making our streets safe for all vehicles that travel within our community

and the people that walk our streets. In 2017, we have seen a increase in the amount of civil infractions committed, but an decrease in motor vehicle.

#### VEHICLE VIOLATION BREAKDOWN

Year	2017	2016	2015
Total Traffic Stops	1,929	1,202	1,502
Arrests as a result of stop	12	5	12
Criminal Complaints	40	50	37
Civil Fines Issued	336	281	320
Written Warnings	686	267	247
Verbal Warnings	907	603	886
Vehicle Accidents	102	115	95

#### CRIMINAL CASE ACTIVITY STATISTICS

Year	2017	2016	2015
Total Offenses Committed:	357	370	413
Total Felonies:	98	77	66
Total Crime Related Incidents:	141	136	167
Total Arrests (On View):	39	42	33
Total Arrests (Based on Incident/Warrants):	27	24	23
Total Summons Arrests:	65	74	67
Total Arrests:	109	118	123
Total Juvenile Arrests:	3	7	12
Total Juveniles Referred (Arrests):	3	7	12

In closing, I would like to thank the other town departments, committees, school district and public officials for their continued support and dedication. Most importantly, I would like to thank the men and women who work with me. Without their endless dedication and support, my job would be impossible. I would also like to thank the citizens of Ashburnham for their continued support and you can be assured that the Ashburnham Police Department will continue to improve its services to make Ashburnham a better and safer place to live and raise your children. Thank You and God Bless America!

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Loring Barrett Jr., Chief of Police**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**PERSONNEL**

Loring Barrett Jr.	Chief of Police
Kristen Mathieu	Administrative Assistant
Chris Conrad	Lieutenant
Wade Wright	Sergeant
Gregg Gushlaw	Sergeant
Rob Siano	Detective/Patrolman
Nicolas Dalton	Patrolman
Les Holgerson	Patrolman
Kevin Kaddy	Patrolman
John Boucher	Patrolman
Jason Bourgeois	Patrolman
Quinn Smith	Patrolman
Open	Patrolman
Robert Gariepy	Part-Time Patrolman
Thomas Chabot	Part-Time Patrolman
Bob Jaillet	Part-Time Patrolman
Alex Scipione	Part-Time Patrolman
Mark Lafferty	Part-Time Patrolman
Tyler Boudreau	Part-Time Patrolman

# EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

## Annual Report

### Emergency Dispatch Center

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Residents of Ashburnham:

The Ashburnham Emergency Dispatch Center is responsible for taking all incoming emergency and non-emergency calls for Police and Fire services and walk-ins. Dispatchers are a vital part of the service that we provide to you as public safety departments. Dispatchers are required to ascertain information during some very difficult and stressful situations and relay that information to the appropriate responding emergency personnel. We are fortunate to have such dedicated trained personnel working for us.

The State 911 department finalized the installation of the new E-911 Next Generation in the communications center in early 2017. Ashburnham has the latest technology in emergency call handling. The system was paid for and installed by the State 911 department and all dispatchers received 16 hours of training on the system before it went live.

In 2017, the dispatch center received 20,433 calls for service, plus E-9-1-1 calls. This represents a small increase in calls from 2016.

The communications department received two grants in 2017, a training grant for \$10,000.00 and an incentive grant for \$18,390.00, both from the State E-911 Department. These grants are primarily used to help offset the operations of the communications by way of training and overtime coverage.

All Emergency 911 dispatch centers in Massachusetts are required to meet strict training standards and to have in place a quality assurance program. The Ashburnham Communication Center exceeds those minimum requirements and continues to look at ways to improve our services.

We continue to make improvements/updates in emergency call software and equipment in the communication's center to keep our center up to date to properly handle all types of emergency and non-emergency calls.

#### **Dispatch Personnel:**

In late 2017, we accepted the resignation of part-time dispatcher Shawn Illinitch as he accepted a new position in his full-time job as a teacher. We would like to thank Shawn for his many years of service and wish him well in his new position.

Also in the fall we advertised to hire additional part-time dispatchers and conducted interviews and in December hired three new part-time dispatcher; David Bryce, Kianna Forrester and Anthony Webb. All three will be required to complete state and department training before they can

work. We would like to thank them for their commitment and welcome them to the department.

In closing, I would like to thank all the emergency dispatchers for what they do behind the scene; you are the lifeline for the residents of Ashburnham and all its public safety personnel. It is often a thankless position that often does not receive the credit it deserves.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Respectfully Submitted,

Loring Barrett Jr., Chief of Police

#### **EMERGENCY DISPATCH PERSONNEL**

Susan Brennan	Head Dispatcher
Christine Pierce	Full-Time Dispatcher
Stephanie Williams	Full-Time Dispatcher
Donald Girard	Full-Time Dispatcher
Shawn Illinitch	Part-Time Dispatcher (Resigned)
Max Rameau	Part-Time Dispatcher
David Bryce	Part-Time Dispatcher
Anthony Webb	Part-Time Dispatcher



## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

### **2017 Annual Report**

#### ***To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Residents of Ashburnham:***

The town of Ashburnham, Westminster and Hubbardston have entered into a regional agreement with City of Gardner, to provide animal control and animal inspector services to both communities. This agreement allows our communities to have the most efficient animal control coverage and response, at a cost much lower than if we provided our own ACO services.

The police department and animal control officer(s) work in partnership to address violation and investigations of various complaints. Again this year much effort has been made to notify residents of the importance and requirement to license their dog(s). After several notifications, strict enforcement was taken and will continue to be taken to assure that all dogs are properly vaccinated and licensed in Ashburnham.

Web Site: [www.gardneranimal.org](http://www.gardneranimal.org)

Approximate number of dogs licensed:

Ashburnham:

Year 2015:	1,142
Year 2016:	1,186
Year 2017:	1,267
Total Calls for Service:	180
Kennel Inspections:	9
Dog Bites	10
Bite Quarantines	11
Barn Inspections	24



## Licensing

The owner or keeper of any dog shall license such animal. The licensing period is from April 1 to March 31st, with new licenses available on March 1st. The following fee structure applies:

Males	\$15.00
Males (Neutered)	\$10.00
Females	\$15.00
Females (Spayed)	\$10.00

For dog licenses that are not renewed by June 1st, the above fee schedule will be increased by \$10.00. The owner or keeper may also be subject to a fine between \$25.00 and \$75.00 for not having a dog properly licensed.

You may obtain a dog license from the Ashburnham Town Clerk's Office by furnishing a certification of rabies vaccination and paying the license fees. No tag will be issued unless there is proof that a licensed veterinarian has vaccinated the dog against rabies.



Keep your dog cool in the summer heat please!

By-Law (approved at STM 10/29/2013)

Dangerous dog, a dog that either; (i) without justification, attacks a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death; or (ii) behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified

imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or to a domestic or owned animal. Nuisance dog, a dog that; (i) by excessive barking or other disturbance is a source of annoyance to a sick person residing in the vicinity; or (ii) by excessive barking, causing damage or other interference, a reasonable person would find such behavior disruptive to one's quiet and peaceful enjoyment; or (iii); barking, whining or howling in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion, (more than 10 minutes in any hour overnight between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or for more than 15 minutes in any hour during the day between 7:01 a.m. and 9:59 p.m.; or (iv) has threatened or attacked livestock, a domestic animal or a person, including threatening or attacking passersby or passing vehicles including bicycles but such threat or attack was not a grossly disproportionate reaction under all the circumstances; (v) trespassing on school grounds or other public or private property or damaging public or private property.

## Leash Law

Chapter XVI Section 3 of the Town's By-Laws require that no owner or keeper of a dog shall permit such dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to run at large within the Town of Ashburnham, except that a dog may, for the purpose of sporting events, (such as hunting, field trials or training purposes) or for agricultural assistance, or while working a canine guard of mercantile, commercial or industrial establishment, be exempt from the restraining order during such period of time as the dog is actually engaged in the

event, sport, agriculture function, or guard work. Dogs may be taken from the owner's premises provided that such dogs are on a leash.

This By-Law will be enforced for the safety of your dog as well as the safety and quality of life our residents have grown to enjoy. Violating the leash law can result in a fine of \$25.00 to \$75.00 and/or an appearance in Winchendon District Court.



## Emergency and After Hour Calls

Animal Control responds to calls after hours for emergencies only. It is an emergency if a domestic, farm, or wild animal is threatening the life or safety of a human. If an animal is injured and the owner can be located, then the care of the animal is the owner's responsibility. To report emergencies during or after hours please call the Ashburnham Police Department at Call: 978-827-4413 or 911.



For non-emergencies the ACO can be reached or a message can be left at (978) 630-4950.

- Mass Humane Society- (781)335-1300
- Animal Rescue League of Worcester (508)853-0030
- Mspca – (617)522-7400
- Mass Environmental Police 1-800-632-8075
- Mass division of fisheries and wildlife (508)389-6300

#### **Why Is It Important to Spay/Neuter Your Pet**

The answer is simple. Every year there are about 30 million puppies and kittens born in the United States. Unfortunately, 4 to 6 million of those adoptable animals are euthanized every year because no one will give them a good home. Many unwanted animals suffer terribly without shelter, good food, and worst of all -- a loving human companion. Nationwide, animal shelters report that they take in over 10 MILLION

animals every year -- far more than they can possibly adopt out to good owners.

Did you know that a single, un-spayed female cat, her mate and all their offspring can produce, on average, over 1.5 MILLION kittens in as little as 9 years? The good news is that pet overpopulation is a problem that YOU can do something about if you want to end this tragedy. Talk to your vet about spaying and neutering your pet. Prevent a litter and be a part of the solution to the problem.

#### **Spaying & Neutering is Good for Your Pet**

It is a fact that spayed and neutered pets live longer, healthier lives. In fact, spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be difficult to treat once they occur. Such health problems include uterine or ovarian cancer, animal breast cancer, testicular cancer, and prostate disease. Spaying a female eliminates its heat cycle and thereby reduces nervous behavior in the female.

It is very common for the pet to become a more affectionate companion following spaying or neutering. Bad behavior (such as biting, fighting, or running away) and temperament problems are less likely to occur. Pet Population Control is a Community Responsibility, communities spend millions of tax dollars every year to control unwanted animals. Animal control officers commonly have to deal with irresponsible breeding, which contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks on

people and other animals. Stray pets get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs. Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife. A responsible community teaches children the true meaning of responsible pet ownership and love by making sure that all dog and cat pets are sterilized to prevent the birth of more homeless animals.

There is one more thing that you can do as a concerned citizen in your community: adopt a homeless pet. Adoptable pets at your local animal shelter make the best companions you can ever imagine and will likely bring much joy to your life.

#### ***When Should a Pet Be Spayed or Neutered?***

Pets can become capable of reproduction as early as 6 months of age. That is why pets should be spayed or neutered by age 6 months. Sterilization can safely be done before that age, as endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association. The chief veterinarian of the Humane Society of the United States recommends 4 months as ideal. Older pets can safely be sterilized as well. It should be emphasized that animal sterilization is a routine procedure and does not cause the pet pain or stress. Most pets recover from the procedure within a day.

For more information you can visit the Human Society of the U.S. at: <http://www.hsus.org>.

***Respectfully Submitted,  
Loring Barrett Jr., Chief of Police***

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Annual Report

### *Citizens of Ashburnham:*

The Ashburnham Fire Department provides fire, advanced life support emergency medical, and rescue service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is accomplished with both career and part-time, on-call, personnel. One firefighter / paramedic is always on duty and additional personnel cover late at night and on the weekends to assure a rapid response, but a majority of our personnel respond from home or work when there is an incident. Monday through Friday during business hours the administrative personnel are also in the station and available to assist the public with general business and emergency response as needed. 2017 was a busy year for the Ashburnham Fire Department with a total of 763 calls for service:

Fire and Alarms – 191 • Service Calls – 47

Medical Call – 468 • Mutual Aid – 16

In addition to emergency calls your fire department also conducted fire and life safety inspections that are required by the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Codes. In 2017 we conducted 243 inspections. The Ashburnham Fire Department also began reestablishing our commercial inspection program in 2017, to assure the safety of all residents and visitors when they are in Ashburnham's commercial establishments.

It is important to us as a department to be a part of our community and this year we participated in many of the various

community events including Downtown Days, Halloween, and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting to mention just a few. We were also pleased to co-host an open house at the Public Safety Building, along with our Police Department. Once again Lieutenant Landry was able to work with the state on the SAFE and Senior SAFE grants, allowing us to interact with the school-aged and retirement populations in our community. This includes assisting with the installation of smoke detectors for some of our most at risk community members.

Training is another focus for us here at the fire department and we have increased the number of trainings to reflect the fact that we are "Always Ready to Protect and Serve". This has included class room, hands on, and live fire training which were completed in 2017.

In April of 2017 we received a new fire engine. Engine 3 is a 2017 E-One pumper tanker that carries 3000 gallons of water as well as all of the necessary firefighting equipment to operate as a fire engine. It is a wonderful addition to our fleet and replaces our old Tanker 1 and the old Engine 3. In October, at our open house, the members of the department dedicated Engine 3 to Ray "Satch" Page for his 6 decades of dedicated service to the community of Ashburnham. Satch was able to come out to the open house for the dedication and rode in the new engine. Other notable events for 2017:

- Ashburnham Fire Department successfully hosted an EMT class, graduating 15 new

Emergency Medical Technicians (a 100% pass rate).

- Firefighter Joseph Arsenault graduated the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy receiving his Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 certification.
- Ladder 1 was removed from service following a failure of the annual certification test.
- Chief Jack Parow was the interim Fire Chief and through his hard work, dedication, and professionalism the Ashburnham Fire Department had a good start to the year.
- James Cleveland started as the Fire Chief in July.
- The Explorers, a program for 14-18 year old youths interested in emergency services, had a tremendous start to the year and the program is progressing under Lieutenant Towne with Firefighter Scofield, Firefighter Poirier and others assisting her.
- The call membership started to grow and continues to do so. If you know of someone interested in serving their community and participating in the fire department please refer them to us. We are always looking for new call members.

We would like to thank the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, other Town Departments, and the citizens of Ashburnham for the dedication and support that the Ashburnham Fire Department has received. I personally, would also like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your Fire Chief. ***Respectfully Submitted, James Cleveland – Fire Chief***

***Officers and Members of the  
Ashburnham Fire Department***



# **PUBLIC WORKS**

## **Annual Report**

### ***To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Ashburnham:***

Ashburnham's DPW Complex is located at 17 Central Street. You can easily reach us by calling 978-827-4120. Office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please be prepared to provide your name, address and phone number so we can contact you with an answer to your request.

The Ashburnham Department of Public Works provides a myriad of professional services to the public. We maintain the town highway, grounds, cemeteries, municipal buildings and engineering divisions. In addition we support all other municipal departments to perform their responsibilities.

Our staff has accumulated a wealth of experience and knowledge over many decades of service to our town. Multiple staff members have commercial drivers' licenses, are hazardous waste site-certified, construction supervisors or have many other specialized talents and/or licenses. Continuous training of staff members in safety, professional education and cross-training in multiple operations strengthen our ability to serve you. We appreciate the support that the community gives us – and will continue to provide you with services that help to make the Town of Ashburnham a great place to live, work and visit.

It is our goal to provide you with the highest quality service within our resources and capabilities. The department is committed to providing a professional staff that is responsible to the needs of the entire town. For the occasional downed tree limb, snow removal or natural disasters – DPW staff members are many times the first to respond in the event of emergencies and are on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The DPW received \$343,472 from Chapter 90, and another \$62,058 from the Town Meeting for paving. The DPW used these funds to do work on Cobb Road and Central Street. The work consisted of reclaim and pave. The other roads that were done included Packard Hill Road, Squire Road and Heald Road, which were milled then repaved.

The DPW staff maintains over 80 miles of public roads and 20 miles of private ways throughout the town. The DPW also maintains the Public Safety building, Town Hall and the Library to ensure the public's safety. The DPW continues to assist other various committees, departments, and groups with their endeavors. This includes but is not limited to:

- Working with Cushing's "Tony Fisher Day"
- Holiday Tree lighting in front of Town Hall
- Walk To School Day
- Hosting the annual Rabies Clinic at the Grounds Building on Williams Road.

The DPW can receive comments and concerns on our website to help better serve the public. It can be found at <http://www.ashburnhamdpw.com/>

We strive to cooperate and coordinate with all Town departments, committees, and individual citizens to provide the most effective accomplishment of community goals and objectives. If you have any questions and/or comments, please let us know by calling the DPW office at 978-827-4120.

***Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Nims  
DPW Superintendent***

# WATER & SEWER

## Annual Report

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and  
Citizens of Ashburnham:

Your Water & Sewer Commissioners are pleased to submit the following report for the year ending 2017.

The Town of Ashburnham's Water & Sewer Department maintains and monitors the water distribution for our Town. Our mission is to provide the citizens and businesses of our town with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and a quality wastewater plan. The Board of Commissioners of the Water & Sewer Department is committed to ensuring the quality of drinking water and the quality of treated wastewater in the Town of Ashburnham.

The Water & Sewer Department currently services a little over 1,100 customers, which are billed on a quarterly basis with rates based on consumption and are adjusted annually. We currently service 53 miles of waterlines and 25 miles of sewer lines throughout the Town.

The Water Department through the AWJWA authorized upgrades to the PLC Scada system and pumps at the Water Treatment Plant which will be complete in 2018.

The Sewer Department continued to maintain the Puffer Street and Westminster Street Pump Stations.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Val Daigle, Chairman  
Dave Berger, Member  
George Cornwall, Member  
Leo Collette, Member  
Charlie Packard, Member  
Stephen Nims, Superintendent*

# MUNICIPAL GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

## Annual Report

### Burials 2017

#### April

12 Todd Sussbaurer  
22 Irene Berger  
24 Harold Long  
26 Paul Vinciguerra  
29 Mitsu Anderson

#### May

8 Alex Koroskenyi  
19 Joseph Von Deck  
26 Rick Dancause  
27 Richard Hautala  
31 Priscilla Houran

#### June

23 Jean Wehe  
24 Craig Gustefson  
28 Cecile Waskewicz

#### July

7 Nancy Wallace  
13 Stacy O'Hern

#### August

21 Kathleen Foley  
30 Paul King  
31 Alfred Pelletier

#### September

9 Paul Gagne  
27 Rick Bickford & Edna Paris

# ASHBURNHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

## Annual Report



*To the Honorable Board of  
Selectmen and Citizens of  
Ashburnham,* I submit the  
108th Annual Report of the  
Ashburnham Municipal  
Light Plant (AMLPL). The  
Municipal Light Plant  
Commission consists of  
three members elected

by the voters of Ashburnham for three year  
terms that alternate annually. The General  
Manager serves at the pleasure of the  
Commissioners and provides direction and  
control to the AMLP under M.G.L. Chapter  
164. The AMLP meets in public session  
monthly at the Municipal Light Plant, 24  
Williams Road. Meeting notices are posted  
on the town's web site and on [amlp.org](http://amlp.org). We  
welcome any resident served by the AMLP to  
attend public session and be informed.

Commissioners Position	Term ends
Richard Ahlin Chairman	April 2020
Mark Carlisle Vice Chairman	April 2019
Sarah Davis Clerk	April 2018

In this the 109th year of the Ashburnham  
Municipal Light Plant and speaking on behalf  
of the employees and Commissioners, we



once again are proud to be Ashburnham's electric utility, providing low rates, the distribution of reliable electric power and professional and friendly customer service; all hallmarks of our existence.

We live in a world where the value of having electricity on demand is often not given a second thought. The supply of the AMLP's electricity is decided upon three years in advance in a financial push/pull of supply and demand. Known as the Forward Capacity Auction, this is where the expected demand meets available generating capacity in New England. At that time, the cost of capacity per kilowatt (kW) month is recorded for three years in the future.

2018 will see the highest costs ever recorded for 'capacity'. At \$9.55 per kW month, financial pressure to raise rates is at an all-time high. Fortunately, capacity costs will peak in 2018 and some relief of this metric will occur in capacity year 2019 with those same costs eventually dropping to \$5.30 per kW month for the year 2020.

Moreover, the amount paid to deliver electricity to the AMLP will not see relief any time soon. Known as transmission costs, this facet of power supply continues on an upward gradient beyond 2019. Be assured, the AMLP remains vigilant doing everything possible to stabilize rates.

Energy, the third component of power supply continues to see wide ranging swings in cost during the winter months. To mitigate the effects of this, the AMLP hedges power supply contracts several years in

advance, narrowing the energy needed to be purchased on the open market at any given time.

### **Personnel Highlights**

Kevin Sullivan was hired as General Manager in August of 2017 to lead the AMLP. Kevin comes to the AMLP with past experience working in various positions for the electric municipalities of Reading, Wakefield and Wellesley. Prior to that, he spent ten years working for Boston Edison during and after the transition to NSTAR Electric. December of 2008 Kevin sent ten men from Reading to Ashburnham's aid to help restore the damaged electric infrastructure from the crippling ice storm. Those who lived in Town in 2008 probably still have not forgotten the difficulties associated with that storm.

In December, four long-time, current and former dedicated employees and even greater people were celebrated for their time, knowledge and commitment to the AMLP and its customers. Jane Dancause, Bruce Brackett, Donald Bisbee Jr. and Anne Olivari were all presented with a clock commemorating their thirty years of service.

### **Company Highlights**

During the summer of 2017, the AMLP experienced the failure of its meter reading collector located in the substation. While the collector was successfully replaced in September, many meters had simultaneously begun to lose their ability to communicate remotely, requiring monthly on-site meter reads. To mitigate this, the AMLP has planned to replace all of its electric meters in 2018. Fortunately, the

collector replaced in 2017 can be used to collect reads from the next generation powerline carrier meter.

A 2018 bucket truck with a 50' working height arrived in October. This truck has replaced the 2006 bucket truck at a cost of \$220,221. The new truck will supplement the existing 2012 bucket truck with a 55' working height. The insulated aerial lift represents the business end of the vehicle and can articulate into almost any position. Equipped with the ability to utilize hydraulically powered tools from the bucket, these vehicles represent the most modern available. Working safely and swiftly to restore power to our customers, the AMLP's bucket trucks are meticulously maintained to minimize the amount of time a vehicle is out of service. The AMLP's fleet is rotated out of service on a ten-year depreciation cycle. This follows the usual and customary procedure that takes place throughout the industry.

Early in the month of October, the AMLP received a call for mutual aid along with many other electric municipalities from the Mutual Aid Regional Director. What precipitated this is the American Public Power Association (APPA) on behalf of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) Water and Power Authority reached out to the Regional Director for help. Late September the islands of St. Thomas and St. John had seen complete devastation to the electrical infrastructure due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, each a Category 5 storm.

After giving significant thought toward a plan to maintain reliability for its customers in the Town of Ashburnham, a collective decision was made to answer the call for mutual aid. The decision to help was not lost on any in the Light Plant, for most of the employees had lived through the 2008 epic ice storm. Answering the call provided a means to ‘pay it forward’ and became one of the biggest reasons for the AMLP’s Linemen to volunteer for the mission.

One other point that simplified the decision was having a new bucket truck scheduled to arrive within two weeks of receiving the mutual aid request. Based on this, the AMLP sent the initial two-man crew and the 2006 bucket truck scheduled for replacement to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Our crew traveled in a convoy of fifteen utilities; approximately forty vehicles bound for FL. Once in southern FL, all vehicles were barged to St. Thomas where work to restore electricity began October 15th. The first crew worked for twenty-two days straight and returned to New England. The very next day the second two-man crew flew down to St. Thomas and again worked for an equal number of days, side-by-side with other electric utility personnel from New England municipalities.

While on St. Thomas, a decision was made to donate the bucket truck scheduled for replacement to the USVI Water and Power Authority (WAPA). On November 9th, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to donate the vehicle to WAPA. This act of generosity capped the event

and was welcomed by the island’s utility as a wonderful gesture of goodwill. Without question, Ashburnham continues to make its mark as a community whose name is synonymous with exemplary character extending well beyond its borders. Many thanks to the municipalities of Sterling, Templeton, Holden and Littleton who helped with the logistics of transporting the AMLP’s tools and equipment back to New England.

In December the AMLP was awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) through partnership with the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) toward the installation of a battery storage project. In 2016 a parcel of land on the corner of Williams and Turnpike Roads was purchased for this very reason. This will be an exciting and innovative project for the AMLP, one which will contribute to the solar moratorium in the Town being lifted. Not only will the battery storage project allow for the installation of approximately one hundred future solar installations at an average of 6kW per installation, it will change the way the AMLP purchases its future power supply needs.

The project is built around an expectation of reduced capacity and transmission charges during peak periods resulting in cost avoidance and an energy arbitrage revenue stream. Notwithstanding, when fully charged, the energy storage can sustain approximately 15% of the AMLP average load for a period of 5 hours, should it be necessary to do so.

The life-cycle of the equipment is 15 years at a project cost of approximately \$2 million. Construction is set to begin early in 2018, with commissioning expected at year’s end. After expenses have been deducted, the Light Plant projects a net income of more than \$1 million over the life of the equipment.

### **Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Contributions**

The Ashburnham Municipal Light Department continues its annual contribution to the overall financial health and general well-being of the Town. Based upon the total number of kilowatts sold, a donation of \$68,148 was given to the Town. Additionally, the contribution of labor and goodwill in 2017 was comprised of: sponsorship of Community Day, assistance with the processing of the census and quarterly water bills, reduced cost for municipal power, temporary power for town events, traffic signal maintenance, roadside tractor brush cutting, quarterly change-out of the post-light banners and maintenance of seasonal decorations on the Town Hall common.

During 2017, the AMLP gave the town an additional \$6,613 in Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC’s) for the solar array installed at the Public Safety Building (PSB) in 2011. The solar array also reduced the amount of power the town paid for the PSB electrical consumption by approximately \$1,820.



**Kilowatt Hour Peaks**

The Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant provides power to 2,941 Ashburnham customers and 76 ‘fringe’ customers in the municipalities of Westminster, Winchendon, Gardner, Fitchburg and Ashby; a total of 3,017 meters. The peak electrical consumption for the year was 6,989 kilowatts on Sunday December 31st at 6:00 P.M

**Rate Classification**

The Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant has several rate classifications from which we provide service and derive income. These classifications are: Residential, Commercial-General, Industrial, and Municipal. The following charts will indicate how each rate class contributed to the total consumption of electricity and revenue for the years 2015 - 2017. Year over year, we continue to see the aggregate effect of energy efficient products and energy conservation measures deployed in Ashburnham. The evidence of this reduction is captured below in the kilowatt hour sales and revenue from the sale of electricity. Our expectation is that this trend will continue into 2018 and beyond.

<b>Kilowatt Hour Sales</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>Residential Sales</b>	
2017	21,061,170
2016	21,083,862
2015	21,342,694
<b>Commercial Sales</b>	
2017	1,356,807
2016	1,401,169

2015	1,345,406
2017	9,708,818
2016	11,054,198
2015	11,144,559
2017	151,510
2016	175,931
2015	196,699
2017	32,278,305
2016	32,278,305
2015	34,093,999
<b>Revenue from the Sale of Electricity*</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
<b>Residential Sales</b>	
2017	\$ 3,375,071
2016	\$ 3,343,415
2015	\$ 3,418,878
<b>Commercial Sales</b>	
2017	\$ 226,737
2016	\$ 235,428
2015	\$ 225,466
<b>Industrial Sales</b>	
2017	\$ 1,343,197
2016	\$ 1,492,914
2015	\$ 1,492,646
<b>Municipal Sales</b>	
2017	\$ 25,431
2016	\$ 28,147
2015	\$ 30,512
<b>Total Sales*</b>	
2017	\$4,970,436
2016	\$ 5,099,904
2015	\$ 5,167,501

\*Sales figures are net of the 10% prompt payment discount

**Tree Trimming Program**

After bidding a Line Clearance tree trimming

contract, in December the AMLP began a cycle of tree trimming that likely will repeat within three to four years. To determine the frequency of this project, an arborist was hired to perform a tree survey with the goal of providing a growth guideline of the Town’s trees. Line Clearance is an ongoing program with the core objective of protecting the distribution infrastructure and continuing the AMLP’s reliable service to its customers.

#### **Pole Replacement**

As in years past, the AMLP continues to replace poles when they have reached their end of life. Poles were replaced on Fitchburg Rd, Jewell Hill Rd. and Dean Hill Rd. Total pole replacement for 2017 was 91. Motor vehicle accidents resulted in nine of the 91 being replaced.

#### **New Services to Homes**

The AMLP saw an addition of 26 new customers in 2017. This number included a new service to 22 of the 26. The additional four were comprised of a renovation to an existing service resulting in additional meters. Conversely, we had 34 properties where power to the property had been shut off for an extended period due to non-payment.

#### **Utility Cost Comparisons**

Residential Bill Comparison as of December  
**2017**

#### **Electric Utility 1,000 kWh**

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant  
250 kWh 39.18



500 kWh	73.85
750 kWh	108.53
1,000 kWh	143.20

**Western Mass Electric\***

250 kWh	53.03
500 kWh	100.05
750 kWh	148.58
1,000 kWh	198.10

**National Grid\***

250 kWh	57.78
500 kWh	110.06
750 kWh	162.33
1,000 kWh	214.61

**Fitchburg Gas & Electric (Unitil)\***

250 kWh	65.53
500 kWh	124.05
750 kWh	182.58
1,000 kWh	241.10

**\*2017 summer rate schedule**

A quick review of the utility cost comparison table above drives home the point of just how affordable the AMLP's residential rates are when compared to other area investor owned utilities. This is yet another benefit of having a customer owned, locally governed, non-profit electric utility.

*Thank you for being our customer.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kevin Sullivan, General Manager*

*Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant Commissioners*

*Richard Ahlin*

*Mark Carlisle*

*Sarah Davis*

# EDUCATION

## ASHBURNHAM- WESTMINSTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Annual Report

#### School Superintendent

#### Annual Report

The school year is well-underway in the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District with the passing of a 1.1 million dollar operational override in August, 2017 to meet the growing needs of increasing class sizes that has resulted in the hiring of 10 additional classroom teachers across the district. We are continuing to implement our 5-year Strategic Plan: Ash-West 2021: A Continuous, Strategic Learning Plan, as well as planning and designing technology integration, researching curriculum and assessment alignment, namely in implementing Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and funding extra-curricular activities and athletics. We used a "what we need now mantra" to determine the essential services and experiences that will keep us a vibrant and growing school district today and in the future. Our goal is to offer our students the very best learning experiences that we are able to. We are very grateful for the support that

both communities have extended and as Superintendent of Schools, I want to thank all of our parents and community members for their perseverance during a most challenging override season. As a school district, we are at the leading edge of change to inform classroom teaching and student learning, which also has a local and state impact on the economic development of our communities; our schools are the "gem of Central Massachusetts!"

The completion of our new five-year strategic plan, along with a revised mission statement and vision statement for the school district, is being implemented. This work, although arduous, has been informative and challenging. We identified 3 major areas to focus our future efforts on and we call those our "BIG ROCKS." They are as follows:

- I. Information, Media, & Technology**
- II. Excellence and Innovation in Teaching & Learning the 5 C's: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Curriculum**
- III. Readiness to Wellness.**

(Social Emotional Learning, Service Learning, Global Awareness, & Life/Communication Skills)

The central focus of this work is on the instructional core: the interaction of teachers (instructional practices) and students in the presence of content (curriculum). The interactions between the three produce high levels of learning. The purpose of developing a strategic and



systemic continuous improvement plan is to relentlessly focus on and support the instructional core.

On August 15, 2017, the 13 members of the Administrative Cabinet of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, under the direction of Dr. Gary Mazzola, attended a leadership team retreat to complete their baseline assessment of the school district in relation to the implementation of year one of the Ash-West Continuous Strategic Learning Plan. The plan was finalized and implemented during the 2016-2017 school year. The plan was focused on the three priority strategy areas believed by the leadership team to provide the greatest leverage for improved student performance, our ultimate goal. Each strategy area includes a theory of action, strategic objectives, and strategic initiatives connected to persons responsible, a timeline, resources, and intended outcomes over a five year period.

**Tools:** The tools identified to assess how the District is making progress on the strategies outlined in Ash-West 2021 include Continuous Improvement Continuum Rubrics (CICs) from Dr. Victoria Bernhardt's work on Using Data to Improve Student Learning and Resource Allocation and Budgeting Rubrics developed at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University. The rubrics provide an authentic means for measuring organizational improvement and growth.

**Process:**

Prior to the leadership team retreat, each

member of the Administrative Cabinet reviewed rubrics and individually rated where he/she believed that the District is on the current status. The individual results were collected and aggregated for use during the retreat sessions. During the retreat, leadership team members engaged in an interactive process to review the aggregated data, came to consensus on the collective results to establish baseline data, and identified next steps to assist with continuous improvement planning process associated with the review and revision of Ash-West 2021.

**Format:**

The format of the evaluation includes the rubric for each area of review, the baseline data results that identifies the current status of the district on each rubric, and next steps identified by members of the leadership team to move the District forward on each continuum.

The complete plan and rubrics are included on our district website, [www.awrsd.org](http://www.awrsd.org) and can be downloaded and printed for further observation and analysis. The data gathered from this exercise is currently being used to develop our district cabinet leadership meetings, as well as our curriculum, instruction, and assessment meetings, seminars, and workshops.

As you read through the highlights of each our 5 school sites, please note that there are collective efforts of each administrative and teaching team working to bring the very best experiences to the students of

this regional school district. I continue to be hopeful that we can sustain and improve our collaboration to ensure that our funding issues and regional responsibilities are targeted, studied, and resolved with our students in mind.

I am honored to have been your Superintendent these past three years and look forward to continuing to work with a talented and dedicated faculty and staff, as well as our students who cease to amaze me each and every day. I continue to enjoy my association with our town boards and staff. I also look forward to working together to ensure that the students of Westminster and Ashburnham receive an educational experience that is delivered by high quality educators and inspired by high impact educational experiences. Lastly, it is my hope that our students' futures will be transformed as they become life-long learners and contributing citizens in a society that needs innovation and an infusion of integrity and compassion.

***Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Gary F. Mazzola  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ashburnham-Westminster  
Regional School District***

# Oakmont High School

## Annual Report

Oakmont Regional High School is a public high school with a strong core academic program, as well as excellent elective opportunities in art, music, tech engineering, foreign language, health and fitness and business. We are dedicated to serve the needs of all of our students, to prepare them for whatever they choose to do after graduation. We have a tremendously dedicated and professional faculty and staff. Our students and parents are committed to success and have made academic growth a priority. Our community is supportive despite the realities of limited resources. The school's Core Values are Communication, Self-Direction, Problem Solving, Responsibility, and Respect. The students also chose Four Pillars: Creativity, Motivation, Determination and Pride, which support the mission of our school on the foundation of our Core Values.

Our Assistant Principal, Greg Smith, and Dean of Students, Brian Sargent retired. Their professionalism, honesty, work ethic and sense of humor are greatly missed. Our new administrative team now consists of former Overlook Assistant Principal Kristina Bogosh as our new Assistant Principal and longtime History teacher R. Lincoln Stiles, Jr. as our new Dean of Students. Longtime Technology Engineering teacher, OTV Advisor and Photo-Media Club Advisor, John DeCicco also retired.

In 2016, we sadly lost two members of our Oakmont family. Adjustment Counselor,

Robin Peirce passed away last spring after a long battle with cancer, and just before Christmas, retired guidance counselor Bob Denny passed away.

As a result of budget cuts we lost 4 positions including the school's librarian, health teacher, psychology/sociology teacher, Academic Success Center teacher, one section of science, and we did not replace the adjustment counselor. We also eliminated the following co-curricular positions: math team, mock trial team, Spanish club, hiking club, the Oakmont Environmental Association, photo-media club, tennis team, winter cheerleading, boys and girls freshmen basketball, and the stipend for the school store advisor. The golf team, fall cheerleading and science club were funded privately through fundraising and donations.

Once again our students did very well on the 2016 MCAS; 99% Passed English Language Arts, 98% Passed Math, and 99% Passed Biology, 97% scored Advanced or Proficient in English Language Arts, 90% scored Advanced or Proficient in Math, 81% scored Advanced or Proficient in Biology. We are well above the state average in all of these areas for percentage of students who scored Advanced or Proficient. The Advanced/Proficient State Average in ELA is 92%, we are at 97%; in Math the State average is 76%, we are at 90%; and in Science the State average is 73%, we are at 81%.

The state has expectations for continued growth, however the better a school

performs the more difficult it is to meet those expectations. Despite the excellent performance by our students we are still a Level 2 school. We will continue to perform item analysis of the three MCAS exams to determine the areas in which our students need to improve. Our analysis showed improvement in Biology and Math, and we stayed the same in ELA. All members of the senior class who are eligible for a diploma have passed the requirement.

Dr. Shirley Griffin was inducted into the Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Science Educators and Room 609 was dedicated as the "Dr. Griffin Lab and Greenhouse" in a fall ceremony.

Our students were also recognized for their excellence in the Visual and Performing Arts. They won numerous Scholastic Art and Writing awards, including two National Silver Medals. The art work of our art students was showcased at the Fitchburg Art Museum, Ashburnham Family Medicine offices, the Gardner Area League of Artists, Leominster Art Association, Youth Art Month in Boston and at the Worcester Art Museum, U-Mass Dartmouth's Emerging Young Artists, Anna Maria College and The Marble Collection, a Massachusetts High School Magazine of the Arts, publishing art, prose and poetry created by our students. Additionally, our National Art Honor Society chapter members were also featured online through the National Art Education Association.

All performing ensembles at Oakmont received district and regional awards. Our

jazz band received a Gold Medal at the MAJE District festival and was invited to play at the Hatch Shell in Boston. The Marching Band and Winter Percussion ensembles also had successful competition seasons. The Marching Band earned a Division IV third place finish with a score of 94.2 in New England at the NESBA 2016 Championship Competition. They were recognized at multiple NESBA competitions throughout the season for Best Music, Best Percussion, Best Drum Majors and had many top finishes during their competition season. Oakmont students performed The Sound of Music in the spring.

Our athletic teams and athletes continued Oakmont's tradition of excellence. Last winter, the Girls Basketball team qualified for the District tournament and the Boys Hockey Team advanced to the District Finals. The Girls Indoor Track Team were undefeated league champions, and a number of members of the Boys and Girls Indoor Track Teams qualified for the State Meet. Last spring, the Softball team qualified for the district tournament and Track athletes from the boys and girls track teams qualified for the state meet. In the fall, our Golf Team, Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer won the League Championships. The Boys Cross Country team qualified for the State Meet for first time in 21 years and the Field Hockey Team won league and district championships before falling to the perennial state champion, Watertown, in the Division II State Final. Our girls cross country team compiled a record of 9-1 and

had their best finish in the District meet in school history. The Football Team finished 5-6 and defeated Gardner for the second consecutive year on Thanksgiving Day.

Five Oakmont alumni were presented the Outstanding Alumni Award at a ceremony in September.

The recipients were: Alvin Laasanen, Ph. D. -Class of 1962, Peter Janhunnen-Class of 1965, David Landry-Class of 1973, Donna Beer Stolz, Ph. D.-Class of 1977, Deborah Wellner Heinrich, Ph. D.-Class of 1987.

We are extremely proud of our students and their accomplishments in and out of the classroom. They are clearly a reflection of their parents and community, with the help and support of the professional faculty and staff at Oakmont.

*Respectfully submitted by:*  
*David Uminski, Principal*

## **Overlook Middle School Annual Report**

This year Overlook has worked on boosting our supports to help all students be successful here at school. This has been done by making our school's Response to Intervention (RtI) program even stronger than it has been in the past. RtI refers to a set of intervention strategies and programs that are aimed at improving a student's academic, social, or behavioral skills. The buildings professional development has been centered on these skills and include training in the areas of RtI in the classroom,

social communication, and behavioral health. The incorporation skills, along with formalized programming aimed at school culture, helps to create an environment where all students are available for learning. This coupled with a robust academic curriculum and specials classes that include math lab, writing lab, robotics, computers, careers, engineering, historical perspectives, Spanish, and others gives students a school schedule that prepares them to be well rounded citizens.

The well-rounded curriculum and offerings within the school day are supported by a wide-variety of activities after school. Students can choose to participate in athletics, drama, band, chorus, student council, and yearbook. There is also opportunity for students to create their own clubs at school. Some of these clubs have included fishing, movie making, art, environmental, Minecraft, and friends club. The opportunities outside of the school day, help to get students more involved in the school community.

This year, Overlook welcomes three new staff members to our family. Krystyna Zaniewski has been hired as a grade 7 science teacher. Jillian Orcutt has also joined our grade 7 team as a member of the social studies department and will be teaching world geography. In the front office, Abbey Rigney has signed on as Overlook's new assistant principal. These new staff members join a highly qualified group of veteran educators that are dedicated to the academic and social growth of all of our students.



In our constant attempt to improve communication, we have added some additional resources for our school community members. We have joined twitter in an active attempt to get real-time information out to the community. You can access our tweets through the user name of @OverlookEagles. We have also joined Instagram to post information about key happenings at our school. You can find us on Instagram at Overlook\_eagles. We have also expanded our school's newsletter to include an administrative corner and increased its frequency to every month. Our newsletter is called the Wingspan and it can be found on the school's website.

As always, we strongly encourage feedback about our performance. The phone number for the school is 978-827-1425 and the office hours are from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested persons may also find information about the school <http://oms.awrsd.org/>. A feedback tab has also been added to the website if that is a preferable method for sharing with us.

### **John R. Briggs Elementary Annual Report**

The 2015-2016 school year started off very well. Over the summer we seemed to be welcoming new faces on a weekly basis. Our school is always thrilled to welcome new members, student or staff, to our family and recognize that all of us play an important role in educating all the children.

We currently have twenty-three sections of kindergarten–5th grade and several sections

of preschool with a total enrollment of 565 students. Our average class size is twenty-two students per classroom teacher with a range of nineteen to twenty-four students. We offer a comprehensive education for all students, and kindergarten through fifth grade classes enjoy daily participation in one of our specials: art, music, technology and physical education.

We receive targeted assistance Title I federal funding, which allows us to support select students with small group instruction in common core mathematics in grades one through five and English language arts, with a focus on phonics and fluency, in grades one and two.

In addition to their placement in classrooms taught by educators with sheltered English immersion training, students who are English language learners are supported by a district English language educator, who has been assigned to the Briggs School full-time due to the increasing need for ELL support in our community. Special education co-teachers support every grade. Individualized and small group instruction is provided in the least restrictive environment in areas of academic, behavioral, and emotional support; speech and language services; occupational therapy; and physical therapy.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment system monitors every school's progress in aligning curriculum standards and teaching practices with state directed initiatives. Our elementary school's Yearly Progress Report based on previous MCAS

scores and the PARCC results showed that the school did not make the projected growth for English language arts and mathematics areas. Our performance level in each of these areas continues to improve but has not met the state defined targets. We continue to use the two-year JRB Improvement Action Plan to address curriculum concerns in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. Also, the staff continues to adjust their classroom instruction to meet the needs of their students based on the MCAS data and other forms of assessment.

The John R. Briggs School Improvement Council is an advisory board to the administration of our school. Representatives of the staff and parents work together to develop the School Improvement Plan, Student Handbook, and prioritize input into the budget development. Yearly elections conducted by the PTA identify JRB teachers and parents wishing to serve for a two-year term on the School Improvement Council. We wish to invite a member of the Ashburnham community to serve on this board; letters of interest should be addressed to the school principal, Andrea Mc Grath. The J.R. Briggs PTA is a driving force within our school. Through their efforts, our students benefit from fundraising events as well as family oriented activities. Projects this year included: School Supply Assistance Initiative, Winter Wonderland Shopping Event featuring small local businesses, Scholastic Book Fair, Girls Dance, Boys Extreme Game Night, the annual Bunny Breakfast, a school-wide



Math-athon, and a Bike Rodeo in partnership with the Ashburnham Police Department. The countless hours and dedication from the PTA enhance the quality of education provided to each student and strengthens the home-to-school partnership.

Briggs is so fortunate to have a tremendous support through parent volunteers. Throughout the day, the teachers' room is filled with parents at the copy machine, assembly projects, organizing the leveled book library, creating bulletin board displays and completing many other activities that support classroom instruction. Parents can be seen in the classrooms working with small groups of students, organizing a learning center activity, helping a student with his/her writing journal, working on the iPads, or listening to a child read. For those parents who are unable to help during the day, they are taking projects home at night to help their child's teacher prepare classroom lessons. The Briggs School values the active parent community and recognizes that their support enriches the lives of our students. An active parent community allows for a strong bond between parents and teachers, where open communication is welcomed and valued, so the best educational experience is provided to all the students.

The Fifth Grade Student Council is comprised of members from the current fifth grade. Each fifth grade student serves on this council for a one-month term. Each month student council members support and improve our school community through a variety of activities.

***Student Council led activities included:***

- Welcome and introduction of new staff members
- Celebration of International Dot Day
- National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month
- Veterans' Day Luncheon
- Turkey Trot Food Drive
- Toys for Tots
- Celebration of MLK Day
- New Citizenship pledge development
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Kiss a Critter
- Read Across America Week

This year, fifth grade students had the opportunity to participate in an exciting, year-long unit on Mars. Fifth-grade science teacher, Katie Bennett, and technology teacher, Tiffany Davis, kicked off the unit with a field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University, where students participated in a hands-on "Voyage to Mars" simulation. After using the school's computer lab and iPads to complete background research on Mars, each class posed a science question about the red planet. Students then worked with scientists at the Mars Space Flight Facility and Mrs. Bennett to design an experiment using satellite images from the Mars Odyssey spacecraft to answer their question. At the same time, students worked in technology class with Mrs. Davis to design and build

a prototype Mars rover, using the LEGO Mindstorms robotics kit. The science component of the project culminated in April with a videoconference in which students presented their findings to NASA scientists at Arizona State University. The technology component culminates in June with the "Mars Rover Derby". Engineering and science professionals from Dell, Alden, PTC, and Framingham State University judged students' robots, scale models of the Martian surface and science presentations.

In the fall, Briggs joined the "maker" movement, an effort to emphasize learning through doing and develop skills such as invention, creation, exploration, and problem solving. Funded by a grant from local company Hub Technical Services and fundraising efforts like library book fairs, the Briggs MakerSpace uses existing space in the school's library, technology lab, and art room and offers students a variety of tools for making: non-motorized building toys like LEGO, Magz, and K'NEX; do-it-yourself electronics like littleBits, Makey Makey, Arduino and Raspberry Pi; audiovisual equipment like cameras, keyboards, and green screen; art materials like clay, paint, and duct tape; recyclables like egg cartons and newspaper; and digital technologies like touch screens, scanners and 3D printers.

The MakerSpace debuted in November during Stuperhero STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) night. Families were invited to put on their superhero costumes and create products for extraordinary creatures with extraordinary

needs – a drink carrier for a wizard, or a source of light for a ninja. The making will continue throughout the year, as each grade level rotates through the space to face a different design challenge.

For the first time, Briggs participated in FIRST LEGO League (FLL). FLL is “Sport for the Mind”, a program to spark an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in kids ages 9-14. Each FLL season focuses on a different, real-world challenge and includes a robot game and research project. This year teams were asked to research and design a solution to the problem of “too much trash”. The Briggs Mighty Moose, composed of ten, third – fifth grade students, worked together to design, build, and program a robot to complete missions like removing plastic bags and activating the compost bin. The team also visited the Ashburnham Transfer Station, analyzed the school’s trash, and interviewed students and staff members at the school before deciding to focus their research project on food wrappers. The team’s solution, the Smart N’ Up Bin, won the award for Best Research Project at the Leominster Qualifying Tournament in December.

Once again, we wish to thank the Extended Day Program for its outstanding commitment to the students and parents of our school community. The program provides a flexible wrap-around program from 6:30 a.m. thru 6:00 p.m. during the school year as well as a summer program. A variety of activities, including homework

support, are offered on a daily basis for all ages. The Extended Day Program is fee-based and serves close to 50% of our student population. Interested parents should contact the Extended Day Director, Dorene Francis, for further details.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our accomplishments and concerns with the Ashburnham community.

## **FINE ARTS NIGHT**

In the spring, Fine Arts and Technology Night displays included technology projects, art work and band and chorus performances from students in grades K-5. The technology projects were:

Kindergarten, What can you do with a black dot? Presentation displaying pictures created with TuxPaint software.

First Grade, Code Creations: Artwork, games and stories created with a block-based, visual programming language.

Second Grade, Where in the World? Postcards from each continent describing habitats and the animals that live there, created with Pixie software.

Third Grade, MA Hall of Fame: Trading card game about famous people from Massachusetts’s history, created with Microsoft Word and Pixie software.

Fourth Grade, Robot Band: Movie of LEGO robots playing instruments made from recycled materials.

Fifth Grade, Mars Exploration: Students use recycled materials to recreate part of

Mars, and then build and program robots to navigate the Martian terrain.

## **MAKERSPACE DAYS**

Our school MakerSpace hosted students in first, second and third grades for design challenges tied to Common Core standards. Students were asked to solve a problem from a well-known fairy tale. First grade students had to help the three little pigs. Can you build a house that will withstand the huffing and puffing of the big, bad wolf? Second grade students came to the rescue of Hansel and Gretel. Can you create a communication device that uses sound or light to help them call for help? For third grade students, the challenge was to assist the gingerbread boy, whose legs were tired from running. Can you build a catapult to help him get across the river quickly and safely?

## **TALKING WINDOW GARDEN**

Briggs Elementary School joined the “Internet of Things” this year with the Talking Window Garden project, a collaborative effort between Briggs teachers and local software company PTC. Fourth-grade students were challenged to design and create plant pots for first grade students, who plant bean seeds in the spring. After lessons on “if-then” logic, algorithms, programming, and computer-assisted design (CAD), students created and tested clay prototypes. Once they had worked out any problems with their designs, students used Tinkercad software to create a CAD model that was printed on the school’s 3D printer. Students added sensors controlled

by an Arduino, so the pots could share data or “talk” to the first-grade students about the health of the plants inside.

### **MARS STUDENT IMAGING PROJECT**

A group of scientists is hard at work, identifying, measuring, and analyzing geologic features on the surface of Mars. Are there any volcanoes on Mars that show evidence of plate tectonics? Can we use craters to date the presence of water on Mars? At what latitude does evidence of liquid water appear? Were the inflow and outflow channels in Argyre Planitia created by glaciers? To answer their questions, the scientists search JMARS, a database of satellite images and data generated by NASA spacecraft, and consult with other scientists at the Mars Space Flight Facility. All in a day’s work, and nothing unusual, until you consider the fact that these scientists are fifth-grade students at the John R. Briggs Elementary School in Ashburnham.

The student scientists are participating in the Mars Student Imaging Project, a nationally recognized effort to get students excited about science through authentic research experiences. Students learn how science works by actually being scientists. Student teams will video conference with NASA scientists twice, once in March to get feedback on their experimental design, and again in May to report on their results. Teams will also be able to take a picture of Mars using a camera on board NASA’s Mars Odyssey spacecraft, currently orbiting Mars. Thank you for the opportunity to share our

accomplishments with the Ashburnham community.

Respectfully submitted,

***Andrea McGrath, Principal – John R. Briggs  
Elementary School***

***Jennifer Lilley, Assistant Principal-John R.***

***Briggs Elementary School***

## **SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES Annual Report**

The AWRSD school health offices continue to grow in numbers of visits and responsibilities. These offices are the sites where primary nursing care as well as prevention and early intervention of health problems are provided to students in Preschool through Grade Twelve. Mandated screenings are done on an annual basis for all students in Grades K-5, Grade 7 and Grade 9. These screenings included Vision Grades K-5, Hearing Grades K-3, 7 and 9, Postural Grades 5-9 and Height/Weight/BMI Grades 1, 4, 7 and 10. Total screenings done were 3,101. Children who did not meet the minimum requirements mandated by the state for vision, hearing and postural screenings were referred to their primary care physician for further evaluation. Information was provided to parents of those students who were without health insurance. In the fall, influenza vaccines were administered to over 500 adults and children at two flu vaccine clinics hosted by

the district in conjunction with the Nashoba Board of Health and the Westminster Board of Health. The school nurses volunteered their time at these clinics.

Our district continues to be involved with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Essential School Health Services (ESHS) and receives grant funds. The nurse coordinator and all the school nurses are working within the frameworks of this grant. Pediatric asthma surveys and immunization surveys (grades preK, K and 7) are done on an annual basis and submitted to the state. In addition, monthly activity reports and yearly status reports are submitted to DPH. We participate in a yearly continuous quality improvement project as determined by DPH and attendance was the focus of this year’s project.

Dental hygienists from the Nashoba Board of Health and the Polished Dental Care program provided dental screenings, cleanings and fluoride treatments to our students throughout the school year. These visits are coordinated by the school nurses.

John R. Briggs Elementary School continues with the third year of Project L.E.A.P. (Learning, Eating Well, Activity, Partnerships) which is a Kindergarten Healthy Snack Program. Thank you to the program coordinator, Mrs. Natalie Nelson, who also runs their Movin’ (Healthy) Munchin’ Moose 5-week afterschool program for First Graders. Both of these programs have received program support through a diabetes prevention initiative taking place at Heywood Hospital.



Meetinghouse School hosts a 6-week afterschool program “Let’s Get Crackin’” for students in grades K-2 which is a nutrition and physical fitness program and the school nurse coordinator is the instructor and works along with Paula Magee from Young at Heart who coordinates the fitness portion.

The Oakmont High School nurse is collaborating with the University of Massachusetts Medical School to coordinate, recruit and administer tobacco cessation interventions to student smokers.

Fitchburg State University students do their community health rotation in 4 school nurse offices during the fall semester. They participate in direct student clinical care under the supervision of the school nurse and they also do classroom lessons on health issues. School nurses also participate in classroom teaching regarding health concerns.

The nurses are all members of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO), the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and are certified with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and participate in continuing education offerings that these organizations offer as well as in clinical programs offered by Northeastern University’s School Health Institute and the Department of Public Health. The nurses are members of the district’s School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), which the ESHS grant nurse coordinator chairs. This committee meets quarterly to discuss any health concerns/issues in

our school district as well as to promote health education/physical education in all grades. Important topics under discussion included Emergency Response Planning and Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention. All of the district nurses are trained to administer nasal naloxone (Narcan) to anyone in the building experiencing an adverse reaction to opioids and they have all attended conferences on drug abuse and awareness. Students at Meetinghouse/Westminster Elementary Schools and Overlook Middle School participated in the annual Massachusetts Walk to School Day in May and all the district schools participated in the National Walk to School Day in October. These events were promoted by the ESHS nurse coordinator along with the Westminster and Ashburnham Police Departments who are partners with the Massachusetts Safe Routes to Schools program.

CPR and First Aid classes were offered to staff members in the entire district certifying them using the American Red Cross standards.

Dr. Lisa Rembetsy-Brown serves as our school physician and consultant whenever needed. The district incorporated a new medical record system this year and the Overlook Middle School nurse is the lead trainer for all the school nurses. Many hours of instruction have occurred for all the nurses as this program will definitely improve the accuracy of the health office reports that are necessary for the ESHS grant and DPH requirements.

***Services provided to students and staff included the following professional nursing activities:***

- Illness and Injury Assessment
- Planning and Intervention
- Medications Dispensed (including over-the-counter, both scheduled and “as needed” prescription medications and emergency medications)
- Procedures including ear, eye, throat and respiratory assessments
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- And many others.

All student and staff encounters include a significant degree of health-related teaching. The total number of times the health room services provided to students and staff were 42,652. Because of the skilled nursing assessment that all of the school nurses provide along with treatment and case management of illness and injuries in the school setting 95.7% of students seen return to the classroom for academic achievement.

**Marcia Sharkey**

*RN BS ESHS School Nurse Coordinator/  
Meetinghouse School*

**Susan Lofquist**

*RN BSN NCSN Oakmont High School*

**Heidi Williams**

*RN BSN Overlook Middle School*

**Jane Flis**

*RN BSN NCSN John R. Briggs Elementary School*

**Jessica Heffernan**

*RN BSN Westminster Elementary School*

**Nancy Taylor**

*RN BSN NCSN ESHS Grant Nurse/  
Meetinghouse School*



Bogosh, Kristina	A	\$95,000.00	Erickson, Jeanne	D	\$47,261.84
DeHays, Eric	A	\$77,219.00	Higgins, Wendy	D	\$41,592.72
Lilley, Jennifer	A	\$89,301.00	Kortegast, Laura	D	\$1,782.96
Marquis, Patricia	A	\$111,768.00	Maillet, Elizabeth	D	\$24,730.00
Mazzola, Gary	A	\$155,610.00	Maxwell, Jonathan	D	\$51,143.00
McGrath, Andrea	A	\$105,177.00	McCarthy, Kathleen	D	\$41,342.77
Palmer, Randall	A	\$68,351.73	McLoughlin, Juneanne	D	\$37,832.29
Rehler, Sandra	A	\$103,987.00	Morin, Inga	D	\$28,859.42
Rigney, Abigail	A	\$85,000.00	Niedermeier, Elaine	D	\$63,355.20
Saisa, Phillip	A	\$115,858.00	Pilsbury, Becky	D	\$34,420.34
Smith, Paul	A	\$8,909.46	Sargent, Debra	D	\$3,000.00
Surprenant, Julie	A	\$116,500.00	Theriault, Kathi	D	\$36,068.54
Taylor, Kathleen	A	\$95,175.00	Aho, Marcia	E	\$19,354.78
Uminski, David	A	\$124,748.00	Bedard, Diane	E	\$516.15
Veroude, Kathleen	A	\$104,075.00	Behringer, Rebecca	E	\$5,223.98
Smeltekop, Brittany	A/T	\$73,815.84	Bradway, Seth	E	\$3,028.50
Stiles, R Lincoln	A/T	\$93,513.00	Brillon, Mark	E	\$28,946.20
Gauvin, Kimberly	B	\$55,415.36	Caisse, Danielle	E	\$1,308.00
Allen, Steven	C	\$45,604.24	Coviello, Jennifer	E	\$12,210.16
Axelsson, Robert	C	\$48,327.60	Dauphinais, Christopher	E	\$474.75
Baer, Jim	C	\$58,378.24	Francis, Dorene	E	\$48,075.66
Bennett, Steven	C	\$43,789.04	Gallagher, Coralee	E	\$15,637.53
Bilodeau, Jeannine	C	\$8,195.53	Gauvin, Hunter	E	\$261.00
Clinton, Madeline	C	\$42,964.80	Graves, Michael	E	\$8,103.80
Contois, Colby	C	\$44,648.16	Gushlaw, Kimberly	E	\$500.56
Contois, Steven	C	\$58,378.24	Harmon, Zachary	E	\$2,957.00
Cunningham, John	C	\$41,788.71	Harrington, Katherine	E	\$856.75
Desbois, David	C	\$41,738.28	Hatch, Tori	E	\$4,731.14
Desmond, Steven	C	\$42,065.76	Hecker, Alexandra	E	\$1,923.75
Francis, Joseph	C	\$46,433.97	Hildreth, Lauren	E	\$4,428.40
Gauthier, Christine	C	\$42,936.72	Hill, Rachel	E	\$4,787.14
Graves, Andrew	C	\$51,767.28	Landry, Karen	E	\$37,616.13
Jacobs, Joseph	C	\$41,839.12	Leblanc, Maura	E	\$580.50
Leblanc, Albert	C	\$9,093.91	Leblanc, Susan	E	\$5,724.65
Lovewell, John	C	\$44,850.24	Mcgonigle, Noel	E	\$5,827.50
Parenteau, James	C	\$57,864.48	Mulcahy, Hannah	E	\$2,575.50
Swaney, Donna	C	\$43,302.00	Parker, Emily	E	\$3,122.00
Carey, Ina	D	\$17,840.64	Parker, Hannah	E	\$4,150.86
Collette, Rita	D	\$42,432.00	Pilsbury, Emily	E	\$1,647.75
DeMarco, Maryann	D	\$40,782.24	Plourde, Lisa	E	\$6,103.64
Deshayes, Margaret	D	\$41,432.64	Racine, Lucinda	E	\$20,236.70
Dolan, Kimberley	D	\$36,042.72	Ridley, Shauna	E	\$2,151.39
Sefakis, Bethany	E	\$1,144.13	Fitzgerald, Edward	I	\$33,682.00
Sheehan, Jacqueline	E	\$477.26	Palojarvi, James	K	\$53,336.80
Sowders, Adam	E	\$1,143.00	Barnard, Charles	M	\$77,050.00
Sowders, Benjamin	E	\$11,114.25	Flis, Jane	N	\$55,587.00
Spencer, Elizabeth	E	\$1,521.50	Heffernan, Jessica	N	\$51,618.00
Streeks, Stephen	E	\$7,187.89	Lofquist, Susan	N	\$58,366.00
Toomey, Sherri	E	\$5,142.89	Sharkey, Marcia	N	\$64,825.00
Vaillancourt, Makaylah	E	\$3,372.50	Taylor, Nancy	N	\$55,587.00
Vargo, Erica	E	\$9,934.57	Williams, Heidi	N	\$55,587.00

Toomey, Sherri	E	\$5,142.89	Sharkey, Marcia	N	\$64,825.00
Vaillancourt, Makaylah	E	\$3,372.50	Taylor, Nancy	N	\$55,587.00
Vargo, Erica	E	\$9,934.57	Williams, Heidi	N	\$55,587.00
Wells, Kasey	E	\$3,413.50	Stanton, Gail	O	\$71,503.76
Dewick, Karen	E/P	\$3,458.81	Allain, Johanna	P	\$22,531.00
Graves, Emily	E/P	\$14,924.45	Allen, Kathy	P	\$33,079.00
Padilla, Julia	E/P	\$22,993.10	Ayotte Leblanc, Daniell	P	\$31,703.00
Blackwell, Jessica	F	\$4,046.85	Barron, Cheryl	P	\$33,966.00
Costa, Tina	F	\$20,098.14	Belland, Heather	P	\$2,655.00
Derby, Veronica	F	\$8,823.69	Brown, Brenda	P	\$24,356.00
Hamel, Beth	F	\$3,469.15	Capone, Leslie	P	\$24,532.00
Hanks, Thea	F	\$14,027.45	Chabot, Angela	P	\$21,960.00
Jaiman, Sylvia	F	\$6,076.17	Clark, Victoria	P	\$1,755.00
Khan, Aisha	F	\$15,197.33	Comeau, Carlene	P	\$31,747.00
King-Dodge, Catarina	F	\$8,000.29	Connolly, Karen	P	\$31,703.00
Martin, Julie	F	\$7,784.44	Constantine, Melissa	P	\$20,916.00
Moore, Amy	F	\$6,806.30	Davis, Nancy	P	\$25,371.00
Munnis, Sandra	F	\$12,854.90	Demarco, Derek	P	\$27,698.00
Navin, Susan	F	\$6,961.77	Demoura, Jennifer	P	\$23,775.00
Neff, Susan	F	\$6,797.57	Divoll, Shannon	P	\$3,478.99
Ojala, Francine	F	\$1,785.89	Donahue, Amanda	P	\$22,531.00
Pawelski, Cynthia	F	\$7,883.13	Douglas, David	P	\$21,711.00
Petersen, Kimberly	F	\$230.65	Egan, Mary	P	\$32,629.00
Rogers, Pamela	F	\$6,782.91	Ewing, Claudia	P	\$23,878.00
Tufts, Sharon	F	\$14,235.83	Farley, Louise	P	\$23,693.00
Wagner, Robin	F	\$1,085.03	Farrell, Sarah	P	\$15,462.97
Badolato, Lauren	G	\$77,908.00	Feeley, Jodi	P	\$5,535.48
Beliveau, Tara	G	\$61,262.00	Fleming, Jeanne	P	\$30,391.00
Chisholm, Melissa	G	\$48,635.00	Fortier, Melody	P	\$27,698.00
Dubovick, Amy	G	\$84,300.00	Gage, Christle	P	\$21,960.00
Ewell, Robin	G	\$84,300.00	Gagnon, Lynn	P	\$5,204.76
Gagnon, Julie	G	\$68,271.00	Hansen, Kelly	P	\$22,212.00
Holman, Taryn	G	\$48,635.00	Haschig, Lee	P	\$33,075.00
Malnati, Lori	G	\$43,288.99	Hicks, Emily	P	\$27,517.00
Masterman, Elizabeth	G	\$32,162.50	Humphrey, Patricia	P	\$22,531.00
Pinkes, Danielle	G	\$38,242.20	Jackson, Chelsea	P	\$21,960.00
Whitaker, Katherine	G	\$61,262.00	Jackson, Robert	P	\$23,362.00
Childress, Jill	H	\$47,377.60	Johnson, Jane	P	\$23,039.00
Lapointe, Chris	H	\$73,872.00	Johnson, Kerilyn	P	\$1,184.51
Kalagher, Susan	P	\$25,935.00	Valentino, Michelle	P	\$1,678.08
Kane, Cathy	P	\$23,362.00	Wilder, Wendy	P	\$25,036.00
Lanciani, Christine	P	\$4,127.83	Zanni, Sharon	P	\$2,287.43
Landine, Jennifer	P	\$24,693.00	Alario, Susan	T	\$59,825.00
Larson, Sarah	P	\$18,483.39	Allen, Gianna	T	\$46,791.00
Leblanc, Laura	P	\$28,459.00	Altobelli, Dana	T	\$77,564.00
Leblanc, Tanya	P	\$24,297.00	Archangelo, Alana	T	\$65,682.00
Lusco, Bonnie	P	\$13,356.27	Aubuchon, Jeffrey	T	\$72,389.00
Maguire, Kelsey	P	\$2,205.00	Banning, Anne	T	\$70,691.00
Maloney, Kristi	P	\$5,541.98	Baril, Talia	T	\$51,097.00
Marinelli, Kathryn	P	\$24,532.00	Barry, Gregory	T	\$80,928.00
Marlborough, April	P	\$32,192.00	Barry, Theresa	T	\$66,964.00
Marlborough, Linda	P	\$23,693.00	Beaudoin, Brian	T	\$70,691.00
Mccormack, Amber	P	\$28,117.00	Belkin, Kristin	T	\$73,872.00

Mccormack, Amber	P	\$28,117.00	Belkin, Kristin	T	\$73,872.00
Miller, Deborah	P	\$33,079.00	Bennett, Katherine	T	\$77,564.00
Morneau, Christina	P	\$14,695.62	Bennett, Lija	T	\$59,222.00
Munroe, Kristen	P	\$22,850.00	Berg, Troy	T	\$60,702.00
Murphy, Richard	P	\$31,700.00	Brennan, Kathleen	T	\$53,684.00
Nolan, Larissa	P	\$20,854.00	Brogna, Rebecca	T	\$64,325.00
O'Connell, Lavaun	P	\$23,039.00	Brown, Stacie	T	\$74,927.00
Osborne, Janelly	P	\$23,924.00	Bubnowicz, Kimberly	T	\$73,872.00
Paajanen, John	P	\$25,791.00	Burke, Kristin	T	\$74,927.00
Perez, Melinda	P	\$29,957.00	Caldwell, Renee	T	\$52,375.00
Peters, Kristin	P	\$3,405.41	Campagna, Beth	T	\$61,887.00
Peterson, Kristin	P	\$20,529.00	Caouette, Timothy	T	\$59,222.00
Phyfe, Michelle	P	\$4,114.98	Cariglia, Anne	T	\$63,737.00
Provencial, Wendy	P	\$21,960.00	Champa, Rachel	T	\$46,791.00
Rabeler, Lorraine	P	\$19,799.00	Checheta, Benjamin	T	\$45,650.00
Raff, Charles	P	\$12,927.56	Christensen, Lindsey	T	\$28,184.00
Ricard, Carly	P	\$10,505.50	Clabaugh, Elizabeth	T	\$77,564.00
Richard, Brittany	P	\$11,105.85	Cohen, Barbara	T	\$68,271.00
Roberts, Jessica	P	\$19,419.00	Collins, Jennifer	T	\$66,964.00
Robichaud, Michelle	P	\$5,632.46	Connell, Walter	T	\$53,684.00
Rouleau-Wojnas, Beth	P	\$26,130.00	Cormier, Kimberly	T	\$77,564.00
Ruschioni, Cynthia	P	\$32,633.00	Correia, Jean	T	\$77,564.00
Schlier, Gretchen	P	\$5,512.20	Courtemanche, Lynne	T	\$77,564.00
Seppelin, Gayane	P	\$28,880.00	Coutu, Joshua	T	\$46,791.00
Shaw, Stephanie	P	\$18,030.86	Couture, Jaclyn	T	\$73,520.00
St Laurent-Kuehl, Paula	P	\$5,454.25	Creonte, Olivia	T	\$44,537.00
Stanton, Christine	P	\$31,703.00	Cringan, Cynthia	T	\$73,872.00
Stone, Juana	P	\$24,500.00	Crowley, Donna	T	\$88,094.00
Svenson, Beth	P	\$11,023.80	Crowley, Ruth	T	\$77,564.00
Sylvester, Kristina	P	\$33,641.00	Cucchiara, Craig	T	\$60,702.00
Thulin, Melanie	P	\$3,365.41	Cummings, Judith	T	\$73,872.00
Torrey, Laura	P	\$10,386.50	Daigle, Jessica	T	\$49,160.00
Dauphinais, Deborah	T	\$55,587.00	Kendall, Amy	T	\$77,564.00
Davis, Tiffany	T	\$84,300.00	Kendall, Dayna	T	\$72,735.00
Davolio, Diane	T	\$36,367.50	Kilmartin, Jennifer	T	\$49,851.00
Dawley, Eric	T	\$88,708.00	King, Melissa	T	\$49,851.00
Deaver-Whittier, Regina	T	\$73,872.00	Kostich, Nicholas	T	\$47,961.00
Demarest, Amber	T	\$26,040.00	Laine, Kelley	T	\$72,735.00
DeMoura, Kris	T	\$73,872.00	Lambert, Ryan	T	\$63,737.00
Disalle, Kristi	T	\$66,964.00	Lantry, David	T	\$74,927.00
Douglas, Timothy	T	\$74,927.00	Lantry, June	T	\$74,927.00
Drake, Sue	T	\$68,271.00	Larson, Madonna	T	\$73,872.00
Driscoll, Jason	T	\$7,612.66	Leblanc, Wendy	T	\$56,481.00
Dufour, Daniel	T	\$66,964.00	Lenart, Laurie	T	\$63,737.00
Duncan, Brett	T	\$68,271.00	Litalien, Cori	T	\$59,222.00
Duncan, Sarah	T	\$68,271.00	Lordan, Joseph	T	\$59,222.00
Erickson, Diane	T	\$88,094.00	Losordo, John	T	\$66,964.00
Ethier, James	T	\$44,537.00	Lucander, Kris	T	\$70,147.00
Fleck, Debra	T	\$77,564.00	Marion-Cox, Carrie	T	\$73,872.00
Fluet, Tracy	T	\$53,684.00	Martin, Melissa	T	\$84,300.00
Foss, William	T	\$57,777.00	Matthews, Doris	T	\$77,564.00
Foster, Elizabeth	T	\$88,094.00	McCaffrey, Edwin	T	\$49,494.24
Fowke, Sandra	T	\$56,368.00	McNeill, Kellee	T	\$46,791.00
Francis, Caitlin	T	\$58,088.00	Melanson, Ashley	T	\$58,310.00



Fowke, Sandra	T	\$56,368.00	McNeill, Kellee	T	\$46,791.00
Francis, Caitlin	T	\$58,088.00	Melanson, Ashley	T	\$58,310.00
Galeota, Katharine	T	\$57,777.00	Mellekas, James	T	\$51,097.00
Galeota, Nathan	T	\$52,375.00	Miller, Theresa	T	\$74,927.00
Gastonguay, Kelly	T	\$56,368.00	Milne, Lindsay	T	\$53,684.00
Gera, Nancy	T	\$8,200.00	Miville, Kathryn	T	\$84,300.00
Giannetti, Brenda	T	\$66,964.00	Monaghan, Ryan	T	\$44,537.00
Girouard, Jean	T	\$84,300.00	Moorman-Smith, Gretchen	T	\$74,927.00
Gleason, Anthony	T	\$84,300.00	Moran, Colleen	T	\$49,851.00
Goodwin, Caron	T	\$76,417.00	Morrison, Nicole	T	\$51,097.00
Griffin, Shirley	T	\$7,200.00	Mossman, Joann	T	\$88,094.00
Gusek, Theresa	T	\$41,537.01	Munroe, Laurie	T	\$77,196.00
Haddad, Melissa	T	\$26,842.00	Murphy, Robin	T	\$74,927.00
Harrison, Jana	T	\$55,000.00	Myracle, Germaine	T	\$53,684.00
Hertel-Therrien, Heidi	T	\$77,564.00	Nally, Patrick	T	\$27,160.00
Hirons, Karsa	T	\$56,368.00	Nevard, Mark	T	\$74,927.00
Holt Breen, Natalie	T	\$51,618.00	O'Brien, Juliet	T	\$51,097.00
Horgan, Ann	T	\$46,791.00	O'Callaghan-Greco, Suzanne	T	\$59,222.00
Jackson, Cynthia	T	\$73,872.00	Orcutt, Jillian	T	\$44,537.00
Jensen, Jennifer	T	\$66,964.00	Parker, Paula	T	\$77,564.00
Jepson, Kenneth	T	\$73,872.00	Perkins-Cote, Jennifer	T	\$49,494.24
Jepson, Randall	T	\$73,872.00	Perrett, Debra	T	\$77,564.00
Jette, Tracy	T	\$70,147.00	Perrett, Karen	T	\$70,147.00
Jones, Gerard	T	\$77,196.00	Phelps, Audrey	T	\$77,564.00
Kay, Ralph	T	\$71,727.00	Potter, Douglas	T	\$60,702.00
Provost, Amy	T	\$70,691.00	Stafford, Jane	T	\$77,564.00
Pulnik, Katie	T	\$30,351.00	Stefanakos, Paula	T	\$73,872.00
Quinn, Ashley	T	\$698.05	Stukuls, Amy	T	\$73,872.00
Quinn, Jared	T	\$73,872.00	Szalay, Lawrence	T	\$65,331.00
Rheault, Laurie	T	\$77,564.00	Terry, Pamela	T	\$73,872.00
Riley, Katrina	T	\$38,889.66	Theriault, Marc	T	\$52,375.00
Robichaud, Kellie	T	\$73,872.00	Therrien, Jacqueline	T	\$58,366.00
Rogers, Jessica	T	\$46,791.00	Tobia, Carolyn	T	\$77,564.00
Romano, Mary	T	\$77,196.00	Tucker, Mackenzie	T	\$51,097.00
Romano, Peter	T	\$77,196.00	Tyros, Demetrios	T	\$47,961.00
Roy, Leanne	T	\$76,417.00	Vera, Aimee	T	\$70,354.00
Savoie, Jaime	T	\$51,097.00	Volke, Kerry	T	\$65,331.00
Seager, Kelly	T	\$73,872.00	Walsh, Kathleen	T	\$73,872.00
Secino, Gregory	T	\$73,872.00	Weiderman, Thomas	T	\$59,222.00
Shattuck, Lori	T	\$77,196.00	Williams, Donna	T	\$53,684.00
Shea, Michelle	T	\$51,097.00	Woolacott, Elizabeth	T	\$65,331.00
Sifert, Eric	T	\$74,927.00	Young, Jason	T	\$73,872.00
Sinclair, Katrina	T	\$66,964.00	Zaniewski, Krystyna	T	\$25,894.74
Sparks, Katharine	T	\$47,961.00	Caron, Kenneth	U	\$10,500.00
Sparrow, Michelle	T	\$49,160.00	Stangroom, Cathy	X	\$30,615.30
			Wilson, Kelcey	Y	\$56,888.00

A=Administrator	G=Guidance	M=Facilities Director	T=Teacher
B=Payroll/Benefits	H=Speech Pathologist	N=Nurse	U=Treasurer
C=Custodial	I=In-House Supervisor	O=Accountant	X=Registrar
D=Admin. Assistant	K=Groundskeeper	P=Paraprofessional	Y=Psychologist
E=Extended Day	L=Librarian	R=Personnel/Grants	
F=Cafeteria			



Upper Naukeag Reservoir

# Cushing Academy

## Annual Report



Established in 1865 as one of the first co-educational secondary boarding schools in the nation, Cushing Academy was the vision of Ashburnham native Thomas Parkman Cushing. In its first year of existence, 122 students were enrolled; most were from Ashburnham, but others came from throughout Massachusetts and neighboring states. Today there are approximately 370 boarding and day students, representing 30 countries and 29 states.

From its founding through the early 1960s, when the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District was established, Cushing proudly served as the town's public school.

The 140 members of the administration, faculty and staff work with the Cushing Academy Board of Trustees to fulfill the mission: Cushing Academy exists for students and develops curious, creative, and confident learners and leaders.

For over 150 years, Cushing Academy has transformed students as scholars, athletes, artists, and individuals who are endlessly curious and actively engaged in discovering new talents and interests. Our innovative curriculum prepares students well for

college and life by emphasizing essential skills such as collaboration, communication, and global awareness.

In July 2018, Cushing will welcome Dr. Randy R. Bertin as the thirteenth Head of Cushing Academy. He and his family look forward to making their home in this wonderful community and returning to their New England roots. Dr. Bertin has been Head of School since 2011 at Besant Hill School in Ojai, California; prior to 2011, he served there as director of admissions and financial aid, as well as assistant head of school for advancement. He previously spent seven years at Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Massachusetts.

*Our students and alumni were the recipients of many awards, championships, and achievements during the past year. Highlights include:*

- Of the students graduating from Cushing Academy, 99% go on to attend a four-year college or university.
- Both our Boys' Varsity Basketball and Ice Hockey teams progressed to NEPSAC post-season play. The Varsity B Boys' Hockey team captured the annual Rust Cup Championship, and Varsity A Boys' Hockey took home the championship title in the Groton/Lawrence Tournament in December.
- Several Cushing students have performed in the Massachusetts Central District Chorus and District Orchestra.
- In November, six Cushing performers were admitted to the Massachusetts Central District honors ensembles, a record for our school. Three of those six were invited to audition for All-State ensemble, also a record number for the Academy,

and two of them were selected to perform.

- In December, Varsity Robotics took home a well-earned victory in the Vex Robotics qualifying championship in Hopkinton, Mass., and earned the Academy's first-ever trip to the regional finals.
- Most recently, six of our students qualified for the second round of the American Invitational Mathematics Exam—three at the upper level and three at the lower level. To qualify, students needed to achieve an AMC 12-A (upper) score of at least 93.0 or an AMC 10-A (lower) score of at least 111.0.
- Cushing was represented by three alumni on the USA Women's and Men's 2018 Olympic Hockey teams in PyeongChang: Meghan Duggan '06, Chris Bourque '04, and Broc Little '07. Meghan was a silver medalist in the 2010 and 2014 Olympics, and as Captain of the USA Women's 2018 team, led the team to its first gold medal in two decades.

As part of the comprehensive facilities renewal undertaken to transform the Cushing experience, major recent campus improvements include the construction of the Watkins Field House, the construction of Lee House and Sanborn House dormitories, the replacement of the turf on Quimby Field, and the renovation of the Iorio Arena, along with the current renovation of Ashburnham House and the Fisher-Watkins Dining Commons. Enhancements to the Arena will also greatly benefit the local hockey community utilizing the Arena, and it will serve as the venue for the 17th Annual Community Benefit Hockey Game, to be held in April 2018.



*Cushing Academy is proud to be located in Ashburnham and to participate fully in the Ashburnham community:*

- More than 3,500 hours of community service to the Ashburnham community and environs are performed on the annual Tony Fisher Day of Service, which commemorates the life and legacy of alumnus and Board President M. Anthony Fisher '69, who was killed in a plane crash in April 2003 en route to Cushing. In 2017, students spent the day working at such places as the Ashburnham Fire Station, Salvation Army, Community Harvest Project, Walden Pond, local parks and playgrounds, and campus clean-up.
- The Academy continues to welcome the public free of charge to the Cushing Academy Performing Arts Series, which features three events each year, and to student performances throughout the year.
  - Many members of the faculty and staff serve as volunteers with local organizations, including schools, scouting groups, community organizations, and churches.
  - Along with volunteering their time in and around Ashburnham, our students planned and executed two major fundraisers during the year. In October, Cushing students organized Cushing Rocks, a benefit concert to raise funds for victims of recent natural disasters in Houston, Florida, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean islands. The event raised \$5,300 (\$300 over the goal). In February 2017, they held the 9th Annual Pink the Rink hockey fundraiser, raising over \$6000 for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge.

- Cushing students and faculty volunteers also assist at the Boston Marathon on Marathon Monday, serving as runner escorts at the finish line.

*Cushing provided its facilities at free or greatly reduced rates to area organizations, including:*

- Annual Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
- Ash-West Community Benefit Hockey Game
- Holiday luncheons for our Public Safety employees and volunteers
- Provided free and/or discounted ice time to Oakmont Regional High School Ice Hockey Team
- Provided the ice arena snack bar to an area hockey club to assist in fundraisers for the club.
- Hosted the 2017 Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet, and served as a sponsor for the Pinewood Derby
- Hosts the Chamber of Commerce Candidate Meet and Greet in April

During 2017, Cushing Academy provided over \$19 million in economic impact to Ashburnham and the surrounding communities.

*This economic impact took the form of:*

- \$108,000 grant to the Town of Ashburnham Police Department to provide for a second police officer on the overnight shift, providing greater public safety to all residents of Ashburnham.
- Cushing Academy paid over \$15,000 in permit and service fees to the town.
- Cushing Academy paid \$2 million to over 290 vendors, suppliers and

independent contractors who reside or conduct business in Ashburnham or its surrounding communities. Our three most highly paid vendors - including the Town of Ashburnham itself – received a total \$1.6 million and all proudly call Ashburnham their primary place of business.

- As part of the major renovation projects, Cushing Academy is expecting to pay more than \$7.5 million to vendors and contractors in central Massachusetts, and more than 40 people per day come to our campus in connection with these projects. These people patronize Ashburnham's stores and restaurants daily.
- Cushing Academy employs over 17 individuals who own homes in Ashburnham. These families provide over \$100,000 in real estate and excise taxes to the town.
- Cushing Academy provides over \$450,000 per year in grants and scholarships to enable 25 local students to attend the Academy. With these 25 recipients and the 17 children of Academy employees who attend Cushing Academy, the Academy helps to reduce the financial burden on the local schools.
- In 2017, Cushing Academy had a payroll of over \$9 million; over 35% of the total payroll was paid to Ashburnham residents. Another 25% was paid to individuals who lived in abutting towns/cities.

***Cushing Academy has been a proud partner of the Town of Ashburnham, and we look forward to continuing to work together.***



# VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

## Annual Report

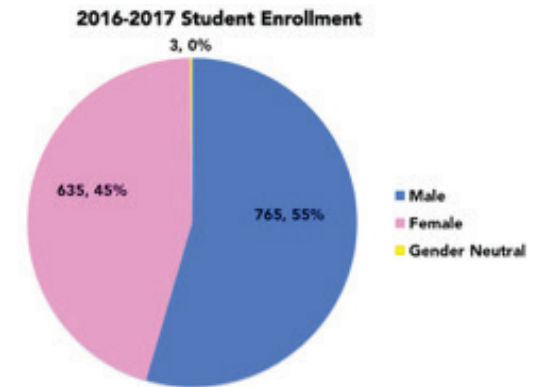
### Monty Tech Vocational School Annual Report

The 2016-2017 school year marked my third year as Superintendent-Director of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, and in my short tenure here, I am proud to say I have seen the school reach new levels of academic excellence, technical proficiency, and student engagement. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of my role here is bearing witness to the creativity and innovation at work everyday in our classrooms and shops. Our students and instructors work collaboratively to explore scientific concepts, designing experiments that are conducted aboard the International Space Station; they study automation and additive manufacturing through the use of robotic arms and 3-D printers; and even build new educational facilities that students will grow and learn in for years to come. Monty Tech is a school unlike any other and I am honored to serve the students, faculty and staff here.

In many respects, 2016-2017 was a banner year at Monty Tech. We launched a whole school 1:1 Chromebook initiative, providing all students with increased access to instructional technology, and improving communications between teachers

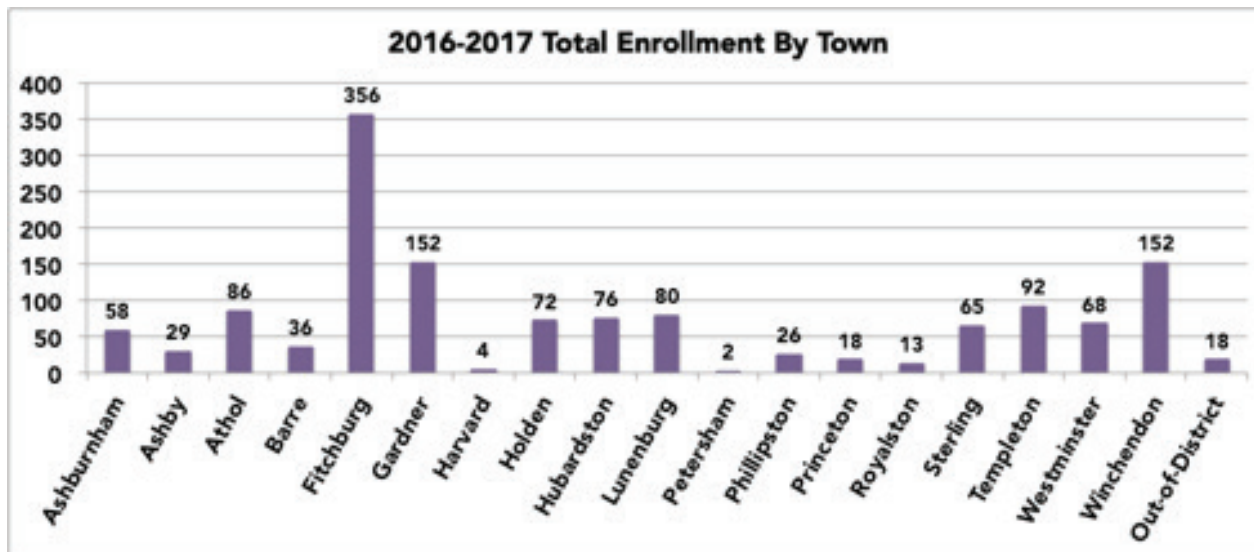
and students beyond the traditional school day. We received more than \$645,000 in competitive grants, and have been able to provide students with remarkable field trips to connect their learning to STEM career pathways that spark imagination and creativity. We provided high quality professional development opportunities to support the school's new biomedical courses, bringing innovative new science coursework and curriculum to students with an interest in biomedical and biotechnology career pathways. Construction of the Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic continued throughout 2016-2017, providing tremendous hands-on learning opportunities to students in our Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Cabinetmaking, HVAC, Masonry, and Welding trades. School administrators launched an unprecedented fundraising campaign, and successfully raised more than \$2.5M in donations and in-kind matching services to support this project. And finally, thanks to an extremely generous Skills Capital Grant, we were able to renovate the Machine Technology shop, and purchase state-of-the-art machinery for students to train on, earning more industry recognized credentials than ever before.

We recognize that students attending Monty Tech have chosen a high school experience that, to many, may seem complex and even daunting. Our students are required to pass the same statewide standardized tests as students in a comprehensive high school. They take English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language courses, just as high school students in your community might. A Monty Tech student, though, must also balance all of that with a rigorous vocational-technical



education, specializing in one of our twenty programs. For four years our students work and learn in vocational settings that replicate industry standards. They train on the latest equipment, and, through the school's popular Co-operative Education Program, our students may even spend time working and learning in area businesses during their Junior and Senior year. It is a great responsibility to provide each and every student with high-quality, vocational-technical instruction, and we are honored to serve approximately 1,400 students each year.

This work is only possible because of our talented educators and administrators, who remain focused on delivering the highest quality academic and vocational-technical education possible. Working closely with post-secondary colleagues, we aim to ensure our students graduate prepared to enter college pathways of their choosing. Similarly, relying on our expansive network of industry partners, we strive to improve upon each of our vocational programs to ensure that every graduate is not only prepared for entry-level careers in related



pathways, but are also creative, independent thinkers, capable of solving complex, real-world situations that present themselves in today's workplaces. On their behalf, I am delighted to present the District's 2016-2017 annual report to you, providing a snapshot of the wonderful experiences happening on a day-to-day basis here at Monty Tech.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent-Director*

## Our Mission

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

## Our District

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham Ashby Athol

Barre Fitchburg Gardner Harvard Holden  
Hubbardston Lunenburg Petersham Phillipston

Princeton Royalston Sterling Templeton  
Westminster Winchendon

## Leadership

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the Superintendent and Principal, the team has transformed the

school into one of the most sought- after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

Sheila M. Harrity, *Superintendent-Director*

Tom Browne, *Principal*

Dayana Carlson, *Assistant Principal*

Tammy Crockett, *Business Manager*

Pamela Pothier, *Director of Technology*

Christina Favreau, *Dir. of Academic Programs*

Jim Hachey, *Director of Vocational Programs*

Michael Gormley, *Director of Facilities*

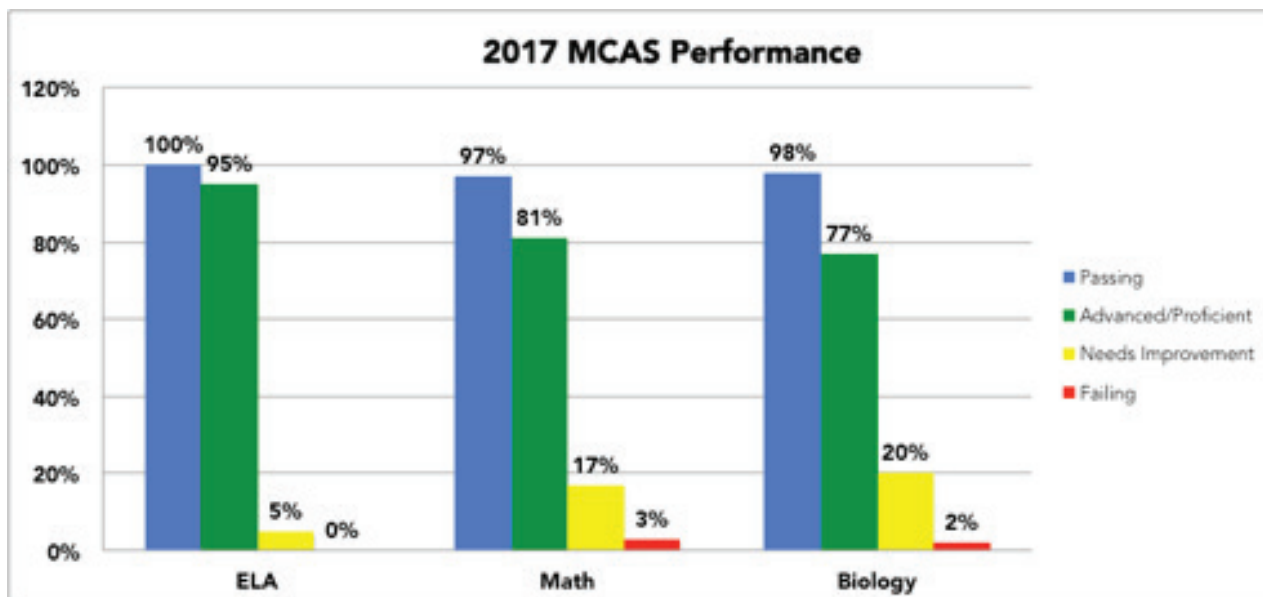
Katy Whitaker, *Development Coordinator*

Victoria Zarozinski, *Director of Student Support Services*

## Enrollment

On June 1, 2017, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,403 students in grades nine through twelve, representing each of the district's eighteen sending communities. Each class of students is comprised of a relatively equal balance of male vs. female students, and each student attending Monty Tech has elected to do so, prepared to explore an interest in one of the school's twenty rigorous vocational-technical programs. While the school currently offers only five programs non-traditional for male students, and twelve programs non-traditional for female students, we are proud to have a student population that is well-balanced by gender and a variety of academic interests and achievements.

Throughout 2016-2017, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2016, approximately 700 district eighth graders



participated in the annual “Tour Day” event. Students toured our twenty vocational-technical areas and learned about the school’s challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members to further explore the facilities and speak with staff members.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational/technical areas. The program continued to attract a large number of students during the 2016- 2017 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

### Class of 2017 Awards

Members of the Class of 2017 were awarded approximately \$88,950 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$45,700 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$200 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$4,000 to the Practical Nursing

graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Approximately 51% of the graduating class of 2017 reported plans to enroll at a 4-year college/university upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will save both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

AP Exam Results, 5-Year Review					
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total AP Students	69	57	89	145	120
Number of AP Exams	69	62	116	187	148
AP Students with Qualifying Scores	36.2%	57.9%	52.8%	26.9%	44.2%
Qualifying Scores (State)	72.6%	72.2%	70.9%	70.5%	69.7%
Qualifying Scores (Global)	60.9%	61.3%	60.7%	60.3%	60.3%
Courses Offered	2	2	3	5	7

*Data taken from the College Board’s 2017 amended report, 8/4/17*



## Financial Report

A great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017. The final fiscal year 2016-2017 Educational Plan totaled

\$26,374,468, which represents a .6% increase over the 2015-2016 Educational Plan. The District's FY17 budget exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by only \$45,000 or .2%.

The District was audited in October 2017 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA, and received a very good report.

## Grants and Contracts

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds help provide many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2017, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$961,346. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, and Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training. The District also received more than \$645,000 in competitive grants, including a Skills Capital Grant for \$435,857 to purchase equipment for the Machine Technology Program, and a grant from the Massachusetts Life

Sciences Center in the amount of \$99,697 to expand the school's science program to include biomedical coursework and learning laboratories. Using these allocation and competitive funds, the school was able to purchase a variety of instructional technology, equipment, and supplies to enhance the learning experience across both academic and vocational programs.

## Academic Achievement

In 2016-2017, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable MCAS scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Biology. For Spring 2017, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts was 100%, Mathematics 97%, Biology 98%.

Monty Tech is committed to providing students with rigorous STEM learning opportunities, and as such, has expanded the Advanced Placement Program to include two mathematics, two science, and one computer science course. Teacher participation in meaningful, high-quality professional development in AP and Pre-AP pedagogy remains a priority, and enables us to continually expand and enhance our academic course offerings.

The school is in its 5th year of administering Advanced Placement exams, and students enrolled in AP courses continue to improve their performance. In 2016-2017, Monty Tech had more students achieve qualifying scores than any other year – 53 students who took an AP exam qualified for college credit.

More than half of the students who tested in the following subjects received qualifying scores: AP Computer Science Principles (62.5%), AP Literature & Composition (64%), and AP Environmental Science (51.3%). In addition, the AP Environmental Science program experienced the most growth in terms of qualifying score as their passing rate increased by 34.7% from 2016 to 2017.

As a first time administration, students took AP Computer Principles and 62.5% of students earned qualifying scores – an extraordinary performance for the first year.

## Vocational Projects in the District Communities

In addition to applying their academic skills, students at Monty Tech are asked to put their vocational-technical skills into practice on a daily basis. Students across the twenty different vocational-technical education programs are building homes, reconstructing damaged properties, repairing service vehicles, making walkways more accessible, and performing countless community services.

The 2016-2017 school year was a busy one for our vocational educators, as each trade aimed to provide practical, hands-on learning experiences for our students, while helping to improve each of the eighteen member communities.

**Auto Body Collision Repair Technology:** The Monty Tech Auto Body shop benefited from new instructional equipment this year, including a new Frame Machine. In addition, 2016-2017 marked the first year



for graduating Seniors to receive the I-Car On-Line Pro Level One certification in refinishing and non-structural damage. This certification not only makes our program graduates more employable, it enables students to maintain the I-CAR gold class certification. Seniors also received an EPA 6H Certificate, while the Freshmen completed their Career Safe Online OSHA 10-hour General Industry Training. Throughout the year, students detailed, repaired, and repainted vehicles, fulfilling more than seventy requests that included: a trailer for the Fitchburg Police Department, and a van for the Worcester Fire Brigade. A Senior student won a gold Medal at the SkillsUSA state competition in the collision repair category, and qualified for the National event in June 2017. A total of eight students (four Seniors and four Juniors) participated in the school's popular Co-op Program, working in area auto body shops and businesses. (Total enrollment: 65; 40 males, 25 females)

**Automotive Technology:** As in past years, the Monty Tech Automotive Technology program continues to service a variety of vehicles for faculty, staff, municipalities, and district residents. 2016-2017 proved to be a very busy year for the program, as more than four hundred vehicles were serviced by students and instructors. In addition to maintaining the school's fleet of vehicles throughout the year, students were asked to repair a Ford Excursion for the Bulldog Pride giveaway. Mr. Hobbs worked with a group of students to refurbish a 1966 Pontiac 2+2 so

that so it could be auctioned off. Students performed very well in the SkillsUSA district competitions, placing first, second, and third, with hopes to improve in the coming year. A total of eight Senior and four Junior students participated in the Co-op Program, applying their technical skills in a real work setting. Finally, instructors are proud to announce that three talented program graduates are working in automotive repair shops in the area, demonstrating the skills they acquired at Monty Tech. (Total enrollment: 64; 50 males, 14 females)

**Business Technology:** Students in Monty Tech's Business Technology program continue to benefit from a unique partnership with Workers' Credit Union. The opportunity to participate in teller training and financial literacy workshops has been met with great enthusiasm from our students, and the instructors continue to be grateful for this developing partnership. Monty Tech Business Technology instructors, in collaboration with their post-secondary colleagues, continue to refine and develop new articulation agreements. These agreements, with Mount Wachusett Community College and New England Institute of Technology, will provide qualified students with college credits at no cost to the student. Opportunities to demonstrate customer service, cash handling, and accounting skills are ever-present as the Business Technology students successfully operate an in-house retail location and greenhouse. The Gear House School Store acquired a credit card machine, which has

made a significant impact on the students' retail and customer service experience. In addition, the camera in the Gear House was replaced, providing the instructors with improved vision on store activities while students are working. Eight Seniors and three Juniors were out on Co-op placements during the 2016-2017 school year. (Total enrollment: 70; 20 males, 50 females)

**Cabinetmaking:** All Monty Tech vocational instructors strive to provide Freshman exploratory programs that not only represent the work and skills students can expect to encounter throughout their high school experience, but also one that piques the interest of students new to the trade. Monty Tech Cabinetmaking instructors do an outstanding job with the Freshmen exploratory experience, and in 2016-2017, the program reached capacity with students who listed Cabinetmaking as their top choice. Throughout the year, Cabinetmaking students designed and manufactured approximately 400 gifts for the Superintendent's dinner, manufactured and assembled seventy-four cabinet assemblies for the new Veterinary Science Training Center, and completed more than thirty-five additional projects in and around the school, to include: Student Services conference room, Chromebook mobile charging stations, trophy Case for the Gardner Skating Rink, new signage for the Barre Cemetery, new lettering for the Ashby Fire Department, surfaced planed two large tree butts for the Mount Wachusett Community College, and playsets for Crocker

Elementary School. Finally, Cabinetmaking had another great year of Co-op placement and continues to receive calls from area businesses in need of qualified employees. A total of fifteen students (seven Seniors and eight Juniors) were placed in Co-op experiences, and an additional two students earned full-time employment over the summer. (Total enrollment: 70; 50 males, 20 females)

**Cosmetology:** With a significant increase in the number of clients served this year, the Monty Tech Cosmetology program saw a significant revenue increase, which will be used to fund the program's much-needed consumable products. The new Salon Iris point-of-sale system was installed, which is a more user-friendly and cost effective program for students to train on. In an effort to support the school's commitment to community service, the Junior students traveled to Heywood Wakefield Assisted Living Center on several occasions, providing residents with manicures, styling hair for a Senior Citizen Prom, and offered discounted services on "Staff Night" to fundraise for the field trip to New York City. Cosmetology students also provided manicure and hair services for the school's Child Care Center, serviced parents from Athol that work with disadvantaged children, and assisted our Drama club with hair and makeup.

The program's greatest accomplishment was realized when 100% of the Senior class passed the Massachusetts Cosmetology State Boards, earning licenses to practice. (Total enrollment: 91, 0 males, 91 females)

**Culinary Arts:** Monty Tech Culinary Arts students and instructors are always busy with the daily operation of the Mountain Room Restaurant, which is open for lunch from 11:30am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday. In addition to operating a full-service restaurant and bakery, serving 90-120 patrons daily, culinary students showcase their talents throughout the year, providing outstanding service at events that include the following: two Program Advisory Committee dinner meetings, four Monty Tech Foundation breakfasts, Monty Tech's Retirees holiday luncheon, a graduation reception, the Women in Technology event, Principal and Counselors' Day, the Monty Tech homecoming dance, MAVA meetings, all School Committee meetings and sub-committee meetings, Gardner AARP luncheon and MHCC volunteer luncheon. Community service opportunities for students are always a highlight, and this year our students prepared meals for the United Way's "Day of Caring" event, Our Fathers House, and NEADS events. Students also participated in the "Puppy Love" event in which 300 cupcakes and 350 cookies were made. The Culinary Arts program also donated pastry and baked goods to the House of Peace and Education in Gardner. The program's greatest undertaking is always the Annual Superintendent's Dinner scholarship fundraiser. This year, students worked side-by-side with some of the area's finest chefs, preparing a six-course dinner with extensive hors d'oeuvres for 380 guests, raising just over \$42,000 to support the

student scholarship fund. (Total enrollment: 99; 34 males, 65 females)

**Dental Assisting:** During 2016-2017, the Dental Assisting program introduced eighteen students to industry experience through externships, and a total of eight students (six Seniors and two Juniors) earned Co-operative educational placement. All Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students attended the Yankee Dental Convention in Boston, and learned about the most current trends and practices in the field. Every student passed the National Board (DANB) Infection Control & Radiology exams, earning two of the required three DANB credentials needed to become licensed Dental Assistants. For the seventh consecutive year, Monty Tech welcomed Community Health Connections, a school-based dental hygiene program, whose goal is to provide dental services to students in need. Through this initiative, more than sixty students were examined by a dentist, had their teeth cleaned, and had sealants or temporary fillings applied as needed. Monty Tech Dental Assisting students were given hands-on, practical experience, as they assisted the staff from CHC during each dental procedure performed. Four students qualified for SkillsUSA district level competition, and each then advanced to Nationals. Students from the Junior class provided dental education to students at Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre and Meetinghouse Elementary School in Westminster. (Total enrollment: 60; 3 males, 57 females)

**Drafting Technology:** As in most programs at Monty Tech, students in the school's Drafting Technology program participate in a number of projects at the school and in our sending communities. This year, Drafting students completed the layout of the Riverside Cemetery in Winchendon, fire escape plans for the North Central Correctional Facility, a layout of the Monty Tech Rain Garden, signage for the Superintendent's Dinner, graduation, and drama club, to name a few. Seven students (four Seniors and 3 Juniors) participated in the school's Co-op Program, and three outstanding students earned a spot at the SkillsUSA state competition. Instructors are pleased to report that a majority of the graduating seniors intend to pursue careers in the field of drafting. Finally, the School Committee approved the name change to CAD/Drafting & Design, which will go into effect Fall 2017. (Total enrollment: 60; 40 males, 20 females)

**Early Childhood Education:** The Early Childhood Education program received three new Baby Care Parent Simulation dolls, and three new car seats for Parent simulation dolls. This added technology aides instructors as they enhance lessons in infant and toddler safety. Students were delighted to support community service efforts, raising funds to support Lucy's Love Bus, an agency that provided grants for children with cancer that are not covered by health insurance. Students showered the Department of Children & Families with gifts and much needed supplies for foster

families with emergency foster placements, raised funds for various causes including SkillsUSA Change for Children, and held a holiday party for children from the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. Students and staff also assisted at the Children's Festival at Briggs Elementary School, and at STEM night at Westminster Elementary. Fifteen of the sixteen graduating seniors are pursuing post-secondary education, related to the program. The Monty Tech Child Care Center continues to operate at capacity with a waiting list, providing meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for students in the Early Childhood Education program at Monty Tech. (Total enrollment: 62; 1 males, 61 females)

**Electrical:** Throughout 2016-2017, students and instructors in the Monty Tech Electrical program began planning and wiring the school's new Veterinary Science Training Center, including all underground raceway installations, as well as installing conduits within the walls for all the wiring throughout the building. Program graduates are entering the trade at a prime time, as the electrical contracting business continues to reach new heights. To that end, program instructors worked diligently to place as many students on Co-op as possible, preparing them for a seamless transition from school to work. The program continued to support the building maintenance department by repairing numerous small electrical issues throughout the building, which included the installation of new ceiling fans in the plumbing shop, as well as a new speaker and

microphone system in school's Mountain Room Restaurant. In addition, students ran fiber optic wiring throughout the building to improve the connectivity and speed of both the wireless and hard-wired computers. While the Electrical program already boasts a well-defined Freshman Exploratory program, instructors agree that enhancing the program to include new electrical service equipment in homes and fire alarm projects would further strengthen the program, and continue to develop curriculum to support the addition of these concepts. (Total enrollment: 78; 68 males, 10 females)

**Engineering Technology:** The Monty Tech Engineering Technology program continues to further enhance the curriculum and instruction by improving upon the four Project Lead the Way course modules, and adding more Computer Integrated Manufacturing content into the already rigorous vocational-technical curriculum. All Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training. Field Programmable Gate Array mini systems were purchased and integrated into the Digital Electronics curriculum, and several Engineering students performed well in SkillsUSA district competitions, resulting in four students qualifying for the state competitions, where they represented the Monty Tech program so well. (Total enrollment: 42; 31 males, 11 females)

**Graphic Communications:** Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, the Monty Tech Graphic Communication shop produced large quantities of print projects for district



towns and community service organizations. In fact, over four hundred print projects were completed, saving local organizations approximately \$165,000. Twenty-two Freshmen chose Graphic Communications as their top program, and two additional students joined our program, resulting in a freshman class of twenty-four students. Two Seniors and three Juniors earned Co-op placements, and seven students advanced to the SkillsUSA state competitions, where they represented the program so well. The Graphic Communications Class of 2017 leaves the program prepared for both college and career, as four Seniors entered the workforce, two entered the Armed Services and all others enrolled in college. (Total enrollment: 90; 36 males, 52 females)

**Health Occupations:** The Health Occupations program at Monty Tech continues to educate a large number of students, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice. We continue the partnership with Mount Wachusett Community College that enabled Senior students to participate in an Emergency Medical Technician training program, earning eight college credits at no cost. Fourteen Seniors took the EMT Course this year. The Monty Tech Health Occupations program is dedicated to providing all students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials. Students also earn the following credentials: OSHA Career Safe Online 10-hour Health Care Certification; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Certificate

through the American Heart Association; and Certified Nursing Assistant License through the American Red Cross. This year, 90% of the Senior students passed the National Healthcare Association (CCMA) exam. Ten students earned Co-op placements. All Juniors became CPR Certified, and twenty-five Juniors became Certified Nursing Assistants.

To support the students' desire to give back, a "Baby Shower" benefiting Battered Women's Resources, Inc. was held, and students participated in Pediatric Day with the Monty Tech Child Care Center. The students also made Veteran's Day cards and sent them to the Bedford VA hospital, bought gifts and clothing for the Fitchburg Community Christmas Party, held a Red Cross Blood Drive, and participated in "Pennies for Patients" for Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Finally, the Monty Tech program was represented at the SkillsUSA national competition, with a talented student who took the top state prize. (Total enrollment: 106; 9 males, 97 females)

**House Carpentry:** While most of the work done by the students and instructors in the Monty Tech House Carpentry program last year was done at the school's new Veterinary Science Training Center, the program continued to support a number of community organizations, completing projects that included: a replica of the scoreboard portion of the Green Monster at Fenway Park for the ARC of Opportunity in Fitchburg, three Buddy benches for the Phillipston Memorial School in Phillipston,

three picnic tables for the Monty Tech Athletic Department, and numerous adirondack chairs for charitable donations. Last year, a total of eighteen Freshmen entered the trade, and all Sophomores completed the OSHA 10-hour Construction training. This certification and training enables the students to work on all outside projects and participate in the school's Co-op Program. The Sophomore students also traveled to Emerson Green, in Devens, a planned neighborhood community in which the focus is on green space and design in the construction of homes. The students toured homes in various stages of construction, identifying energy efficient materials and their use (2.K.01, 2014 Carpentry Frameworks). (Total enrollment: 65; 56 males, 9 females)

**HVAC & Property Maintenance:** 2016-2017 brought welcome change to the Monty Tech HVAC and Property Maintenance Program. Brendan Curran, our newest faculty member, joined the instructional team, bringing tremendous industry expertise and a passion for teaching, from which the students benefit daily. Students and instructors completed two major projects this year, including the creation and installation of a walk-in style cooler/freezer unit for culinary bakery, and the installation of a heating and cooling system for the new Veterinary Science Training Center. This new system encompasses state-of-the-art mechanicals, including heat pump and hydronic energy recovery systems. Seven Seniors and one Junior participated in



the very popular Co-operative education program. In April, channel 5 (WCVB) selected one of our Senior shop students as their A+ Student of the Week. A sophomore was accepted into the “Pathways Early College Innovation School” at Mount Wachusett Community College. She was one of only twenty-two students in Massachusetts to be selected for this program that will allow her to achieve both a two-year college degree, as well as her high school diploma in the next two years. The program’s Junior related class is now offering the full licensure of the National EPA certification for Refrigerant Recovery, and sixteen students earned their Universal HVAC license. This credentialing process was streamlined by the school’s new 1:1 Chromebook initiative. (Total enrollment: 66; 53 males, 13 females)

**Information Technology:** Last year, thirteen first choice freshmen were accepted into Information Technology and three students transferred into the department. Information Technology offers students opportunities to earn more industry-recognized certifications than any other program at Monty Tech. It is an accomplishment our instructors are so proud of, as these certifications affirm the technical skill proficiency needed for so many entry-level careers in networking and information technology. Last year, all sixteen Freshmen completed their Career Safe Online OSHA 10-hour General Industry training, while the Sophomore class passed the IC3 Certificate Exam for basic computer hardware, software, and internet knowledge

and skills.

All Sophomores also passed the Test-out PC Pro Certificate exam and the Cisco IT Essential course for computer repair and maintenance, and the Introduction to Networking course. Two exceptional Sophomores also earned COMPTIA A+ credentials. All Juniors completed the Linux Essentials course, and five passed the CIW Advanced HTML5 & CSS3 Certification exam. All Seniors completed the Linux Essentials course, as well as the AP Computer Science Principles course in Mobile Computing. Eight of the twelve Seniors then sat for the AP exam, and five earned college credit for the course. Finally, program instructors collaborated throughout the year with instructors at Mount Wachusett Community College, to review and align curriculum to meet college standards. As a result, qualified students graduating from the Monty Tech Information Technology program will now receive college credit for four courses, a total of twelve college credits, at no charge to the student. (Total enrollment: 64; 57 males, 7 female)

**Machine Technology:** 2016-2017 was an incredible year for the Monty Tech Machine Technology program, as they received the largest competitive grant awarded in the school’s history. A very generous \$435,000 Skills Capital Grant was given to Monty Tech, so that the program could purchase updated equipment and instructional materials. The shop is expected to undergo a major renovation, which will allow instructors to replicate a Clean Room environment,

training students on precise measurement techniques. In the course of applying for this grant, a unique partnership was developed between Monty Tech, the L.S. Starrett Company, and Snap-On Tools.

As a result of this collaboration, Monty Tech is now the only high school in the nation to offer two levels of Starrett/NC3 certification and training. The Monty Tech Machine Technology program also received a \$15,000 Gene Haas Scholarship grant, which enabled district officials to award very generous \$1,000 scholarships to students enrolling in post-secondary engineering programs. Finally, the students and instructors supported a variety of school events and programs, and completed a number of outside projects, that included cutting key tags for the Fitchburg Police Department and a designing and manufacturing a trophy for Narragansett Regional High School, in Templeton. (Total enrollment: 55; 54 males, 1 female)

**Masonry:** Fifteen Freshmen selected the Masonry program for their high school experience, entering a trade that continues to make significant improvements and impact on the school and communities within the Monty Tech district. During the 2016-2017 school year, Masonry students and instructors completed a walkway at the Winchendon Veterans’ Cemetery, replaced concrete steps outside the Duka kis Performing Arts Center, and worked at the Veterinary Science Training Center construction site, where they worked alongside industry experts who poured

the floor of the 7,500 sq. ft. facility, poured a concrete pad for the buildings expansive HVAC system, and completed small repair projects to support the construction process. One Junior student qualified for the SkillsUSA national competition, representing the program extremely well in Louisville, KY. A total of six students participated in the Co-op Program, and five Seniors entered the Masonry trade upon graduation. (Total enrollment: 63; 51 males, 12 females)

**Plumbing:** Nineteen students entered the Plumbing program at Monty Tech during the 2016-2017 school year, and all of them successfully completed the OSHA 10-hour General Training Course. Sophomore students completed the OSHA 10-hour Construction Training, a requirement for participation in any outside building projects of the school's Co-op Program. While the Sophomore class received Viega pex and product review, the Seniors traveled to the Viega training facility in Nashua, NH, where they received Viega MegaPress training and certification.

Throughout the year, Juniors and Seniors gained valuable experience on the Veterinary Science Training Center construction site, where they installed the underground drainage, drain waste vent system, learned to read blueprints, use a builder level to read grade and elevations, and install cast iron and copper pipe fittings. Two Seniors were recognized for their outstanding technical skills, receiving scholarships from the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors

Association of Massachusetts and the Central Mass Plumbing & Gas Inspectors Association.

A total of fourteen students (eight Seniors and six Juniors) participated in the school's Co-op Program, which was the highest placement rate in program history. Finally, the program benefited from the installation of new live working stations that include condensing gas boilers and indirect water heaters with solar thermal hot water panels. Having the added technology will allow our students to train on products used in today's construction, preparing them to enter the field of Plumbing upon graduation. (Total enrollment: 73; 68 males, 5 females)

**Welding/Metal Fabrication:** The shop received a state-of-the-art Miller Inverter Welding Machine and implemented new curriculum for grades 11 & 12 that included light gauge aluminum welding. With an eye toward preparing graduates for entry-level career opportunities, instructors have also integrated lessons in soft skills into the curriculum. Helping students refine job applications, cover letters, resume writing, and interviewing skills will undoubtedly help them as they transition from school into the world of work. In 2016-2017, twelve students (six Seniors and six Juniors) participated in Co-op. In addition, three graduating seniors accepted jobs in the trade after graduation. All Freshmen completed their Career Safe Online OSHA 10-hour General Industry Training. The shop completed more than fifty projects for residents of the Monty Tech community and performed

numerous projects around the building. (Total enrollment: 62; 46 males, 16 females)

## **Co-operative Education and Student Placement**

The Cooperative Education Program is an extension of the student's technical education that combines classroom instruction with on-the-job-training. The Co-op Program provides students the opportunity to further develop academic, technical and employability skills in an industry work environment. All students are eligible to participate in Co-op Program, provided they satisfy state and school grade, attendance and performance requirements. All Co-op students have completed the OSHA recognized Career Safe online health and safety course.

The Cooperative Education Program is beneficial for both student and employer. For the student, it is a chance to gain on-the-job training that improves both their technical and employability skills. Additionally, making industry connections enhances post-graduate employment opportunities. The Co-op Program allows students to earn while they learn.

Employer benefits include addressing workforce needs in an efficient manner. Coop students provide a pool of temporary and potential full-time employees who are already trained, thus reducing employer training costs. Co-op work hours may be tailored to suit the needs of partnering employers. During school year 2016-2017, a record number of students participated

in the cooperative education program. Approximately 37% of the class of 2017 earned Co-op placements, working, learning and applying their technical skills related in area businesses.

### **Student Support Services**

During the 2016-2017 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and just under one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services (SSS) Department encompasses special education, the department provides support and is available to all Monty Tech students.

The department includes a full-time nursing staff that administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meeting. The department benefits from a full-time school social worker that participates in departmental meetings and assists students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues, and proper food and clothing. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three- year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time speech language pathologist, who is available to

assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Our students also have access to the services of a full-time adjustment counselor and part-time school psychologist. All of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions, mental health emergency treatment, medical/mental health re- entry and transition support and services, as well as crisis intervention.

The school's Director of Student Support Services oversees the District's Special Education Program, which is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The comprehensive review and evaluation are done in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council, and the results of the evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs in place at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

### **Technology**

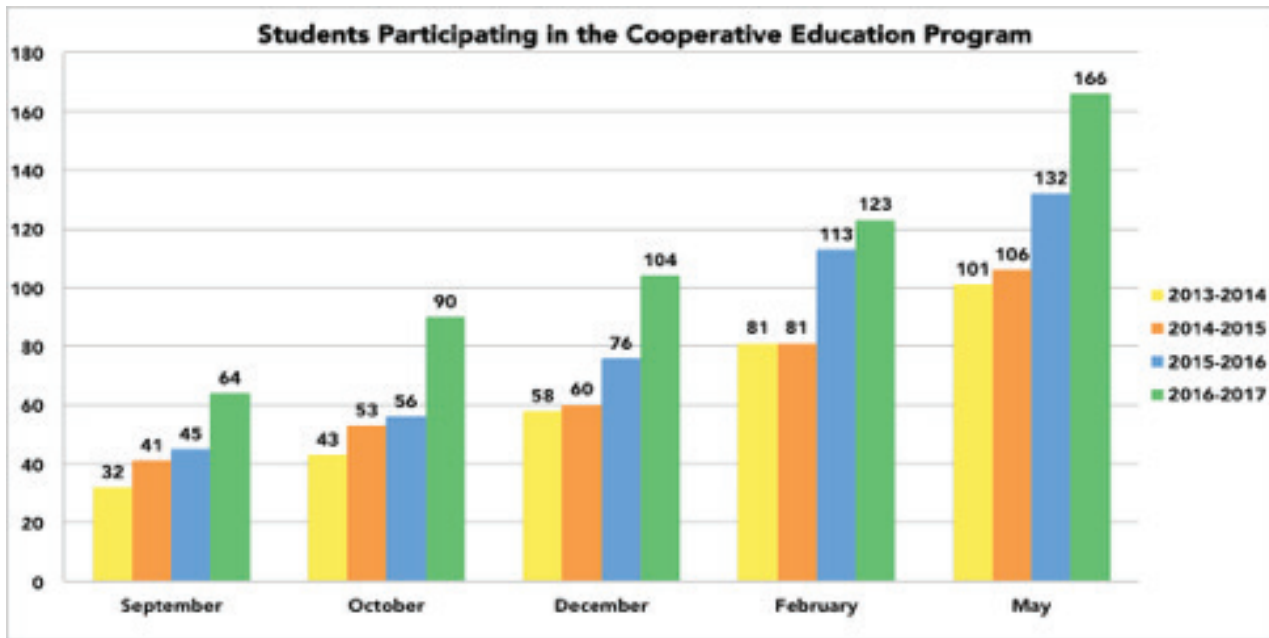
The 2016-2017 school year began with a successful roll-out of the long-anticipated 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Chromebooks were distributed to 1,436 students. Google Cloud Print was added, making printers available to students and teachers throughout the building. Two Chromebook charging stations were installed in the library and cafeteria allowing students to charge their devices, and students who may have come to school without their devices have been allowed to borrow a Chromebook

from the library, on a daily basis.

To support the 1:1 Chromebook initiative and other technology needs, Monty Tech has successfully completed a number of necessary infrastructure upgrades. With federal e-rate dollars totaling \$77,752, the school's external bandwidth speeds were increased to 1.5GB and internal bandwidth was increased by 10GB. In addition to hardware, the school added the following complementary software: Lightspeed web filtering and Aruba ClearPass. Lightspeed web filtering is expected to provide safe, fast access to the Internet and includes flexible policies, social media controls, bandwidth control, malware protection, anonymous proxy detection, mobile filtering, classroom management tools, and comprehensive reporting. Aruba ClearPass will provide strong network access security for monitoring wireless devices, as well as enhanced options for guest access services.

The school also launched a Digital Citizenship course, proving lessons and guidance relating to appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying, potential risks related to social networking sites and chat rooms. Students at Monty Tech are expected to demonstrate the safe and responsible use of technology and an understanding of security, privacy, and ethics. The district maintains Internet Safety information on the district website in the Parents & Students section.





## Marine Corps JROTC

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) had an extraordinary school year. All program objectives for the 2016-2017 school year were achieved. Noteworthy was the performance of JROTC's Cyber Security Team, which for the seventh consecutive year captured national recognition by placing third overall in the Air Force Association's National Cyber Security Competition held in Baltimore, MD.

The 2016-2017 Corps of Cadets completed over nine thousand hours of community service throughout the district. The Corps conducted a major food drive with United Way, worked side-by-side with the Marine Corps Reserve in a national Toys for Tots campaign, and spent six weekends working

with the local Salvation Army helping to raise over \$25,000 for needy families. The cadets conducted their annual 10-mile "March-A-Thon" to support NEADS (National Education of Assistance Dogs Services) from Princeton, MA, raising \$25,000 for their Service Dogs for Veterans program.

Sixty-five Monty Tech cadets attended a leadership camp at Prince William Forest, in Quantico VA. The camp provided cadets with individual and team development opportunities, as well as the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and many other historical sites.

During the summer of 2017, our Cadet Cyber Team was again asked to support a Cyber STEM camp for the National Marine Corps JROTC program. The Cyber Team

coordinated the 8-day camp that focused on defending cyber networks from attacks. The camp also offered an introduction to robotics programming using the VEX Robotics System and computer programming using the CanaKit Raspberry Pi 3's. The camp was attended by 150 students, representing eighteen states.

## Student Athletics

The Monty Tech athletic program continues to expand in scope and skill each year. In 2016-2017, approximately five hundred students participated in our freshman, junior varsity, and varsity athletic programs. Seventeen teams competed in Fall 2016, fourteen during the winter season, and another eleven teams represented the school in Spring 2017.

The Varsity Football team started off the 2016 season slowly, but caught fire as the season wore on, winning their last three games, including a thrilling 20-12 victory on Thanksgiving eve at Nashoba Valley Facebook Technical High School. They ended the season with a record of 5 – 6.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 8 – 8 – 2, led by leading scorer Charlie Kelley, who has 30 points on the season, and the JV Boys Soccer team finished their season with a record of 14 – 3 – 2. The Varsity Girls Soccer team just missed qualifying for a post-season berth, finishing with a 7 – 9 – 2 record, while the JV Girls Soccer team was



9 – 2 – 5. The Varsity Field Hockey team was 12 – 2 – 5, qualifying for the district tournament where they lost to Bromfield, 1 – 0, in an exciting game. The Boys Cross Country team finished with a record of 5 – 6 and the Girls completed their season at an even 4 – 4.

The school's volleyball program is growing in popularity, and all teams represented Monty Tech well. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team finished at 13 – 7, the JV Girls Volleyball ended with a record of 7 – 10, and the Freshmen Girls team completed their season with a record of 9 – 11. Coach Farr reported that the school's Varsity Golf team can be expected to achieve more success in the coming years, as the 2016-2017 team was young but talented, finishing the Fall 2016 season with a record of 6 – 9.

The Boys Varsity Basketball team qualified for the Districts with a 10 – 10 record, but a loss to Assabet in the first round ended their season. The JV Boys basketball team was finished their building year with a record of 3 -13 and the Freshmen ended on a 2 – 12 note. With a record of 10 – 10, the Varsity Girls Basketball team advanced to the District tournament and performed quite well, out scoring Notre Dame in the first round before losing to Douglas in a closely played second-round game.

The JV Girls Basketball team finished an impressive season with a 10 – 4 record, while the Freshmen ended with 5 – 9. The Co-op Boys Ice Hockey team finished at 8 – 10 – 2, just missing out on a post season berth. The Indoor Track and Field team

competed at the Northbridge Field House and the boys were 4 – 3 and the girls 0 – 7. The Co-op wrestling team continues to improve, finishing 2nd place in the Colonial Athletic League with a record of 9 – 9. Monty Tech students also had a chance to participate on Co-op Swimming and Girls Ice Hockey Teams, as we were unable to field these teams independently. The Girls Ice Hockey team had an impressive start to the program, by qualifying for the District tournament.

The Varsity Baseball team had a very successful season, despite not playing any games at Monty Tech. They finished the season with a 14 – 7 record, winning the Colonial Athletic League small school Championship for the 2nd straight year. The JV Baseball team finished 10 – 4, while the Freshmen team continued to provide build skills and talent for the program's future. The Varsity Softball team had a great regular season as they finished at 17 – 3. The team lost to Blackstone Valley Tech 15 – 14 in the Semi- Finals of the State Vocational Tournament and lost to Quaboag with a score of 4 – 0 in the first round of the District tournament. The JV Softball team, comprised primarily of freshmen also had an excellent season, finishing with a record of 12 – 3. The Boys and Girls Track and Field teams, with almost fifty students participating, both finished their seasons with 6 - 4 records.

The Varsity Boys Lacrosse team had their best season ever as they finished with a record of 14 – 6 in the regular season,

losing to Blackstone Valley Tech 14 – 12 in the semi-final round of the State Vocational Tournament. The team then outscored Blackstone Valley 12 – 8 in the first round of the MIAA tournament, only to lose to Grafton in the next round.

The JV Boys Lacrosse team finished their building year with a record of 6 – 10. The Girls Lacrosse team became was the host team in a Co -Op with Sizer School and continued to improve as they finished 3 – 16, but 3rd place in the Colonial Athletic League.

The Varsity Boys Volleyball team was 13 – 7, qualifying for the MIAA tournament, but losing to Worcester Technical High School in the first round.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2016-2017, Travis Hull and Madison Russo.

Dave Reid, Monty Tech's long-time Athletic Director, completed his 44th year as Varsity Softball coach, and was selected as the Section 1 Varsity Softball Coach of the Year. His overall record of 626 – 315 – 1 speaks to his tremendous contributions to the sport and sets him apart from other coaches in Section 1, which includes all of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

## **Monty Tech School of Continuing Education**

The Monty Tech School of Continuing Education continues to update and add courses that emphasize a commitment to

excellence by offering affordable, quality, and enjoyable educational experiences. For the Fall of 2016, Monty Tech offered 65 classes with 580 registrations, and during the Spring 2017 semester, there were 79 postgraduate and continuing studies courses, with 857 registrations.

The program is on track to expand the number of workforce readiness classes that provide our students with industry-recognized credentials, increasing our small business partnerships, and the number and quality of personal enrichment classes - sewing, knitting, acrylic painting and sculpting, to name a few. Catalog distribution has almost doubled, from 80,000 to 155,000 copies, and the relatively new online registration feature continues to add value to our students and instructors.

Spring 2018 will see the program's first Cosmetology courses come to fruition. This will provide our community members with a high-quality, affordable entry into a viable career pathway. Upon completion of the 14-month program, students will have the opportunity to sit for the cosmetology licensing exam, and begin their work in the exciting cosmetology industry.

The continued success and sustainability of an adult education program is based on hiring quality instructors and meeting the needs of the community. Our goal in the coming year includes increasing our adult education course offerings, with a concentration on career programs. Stay tuned for Pharmacy Technician, Welding

Certification Prep, Auto Damage Appraiser and Apprenticeship opportunities at the Monty Tech School of Continuing Education.

### **Practical Nursing Program**

The Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely, ethically and in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings. This mission, which is consistent with the philosophy and goals of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, accomplishes the following:

- Identifies a strong relationship between academic and vocational preparation
- Stresses the importance of developing critical thinking skills to function safely, effectively, and productively in an ever-changing technical and diverse society
- Supports the maintenance of a positive and caring learning and practice environment

The above mission and philosophy were met by the Practical Nursing program by several different methods.

On June 29, 2017, a graduating class of 38 students completed the Practical Nursing Program and entered the nursing profession. The class achieved an initial NCLEX pass rate of 76%, with 28 of the 38 graduates achieving 100% pass rate for the NCLEX-PN exam. Seven graduates are waiting to retake their NCLEX-PN exam, and two graduates have already taken the exam again, and passed. 78% of the 2017 graduates are

currently employed in the health care profession throughout Massachusetts, and many are working within the eighteen cities and towns of the Monty Tech school district as LPNs in various health care settings, ranging from long term care, sub-acute care to mental health facilities.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to develop the "LPN to BSN Bridge" relationship with Fitchburg State University. Several 2017 graduates are pursuing seats in the LPN to BSN program at FSU and will be continuing their education to the Bachelors in Nursing. Many class applicants cited their attraction to Monty Tech as the opportunity to complete a ten-month accelerated program and then bridge to Fitchburg State University.

Monty Tech Practical Nursing students are now completing patient scenarios in the Sim Lab on a weekly basis in Terms 2 and 3. The Faculty Sim team has implemented National League of Nursing (NLN) patient scenarios consistent with our curriculum frameworks, and have also utilized the Sim lab setting to instruct students in developing nursing skills that they may not be experiencing in the clinical setting. Instructors have successfully developed a pediatric patient scenario that is consistent with present student learning outcomes and the clinical pediatric setting. Similarly, instructors have implemented a scenario that deals with a mental health addiction client, so that our students are better prepared for the clinical experience at partnering institution AdCare Hospital in Worcester, MA.

The class of 2017 performed a community service project adopting a Monty Tech family in need referred by Student Support Services. The nursing students purchased holiday gifts and food, consistent with the family's needs and requests.

The Practical Nursing Program Faculty spent the summer of 2017 reviewing the revised 2017 NCLEX-PN Detailed Test Plan, and the program's student outcomes, to assure alignment and compliance with our curriculum frameworks and content. The annual review process is an important component of the program, ensuring the Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program presents students with rigorous content, aligned with industry standards, so that our graduates are prepared to succeed not only on the licensing exam, but also in their chosen nursing career pathway.

With an eye toward the program's future, fifty-one applicants were accepted to the Class of 2018, and forty students enrolled and will continue in the tradition of high-quality practical nursing preparation.

### **Looking Ahead**

While the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District educational community is certainly proud of the achievements of our talented students, faculty, and staff, we continue to have an eye toward the future, always committed to improving our vocational and academic programming, strengthening key partnerships, and maintaining facilities that contribute to student success and

achievement. As we look ahead, there are a number of programs and initiatives that we expect will have a positive impact on our school and students for years to come.

Expand science offerings to include new biomedical courses: In 2016-2017 the school received a \$99,000 grant from the Massachusetts Life Science Center, which allowed us to purchase new instructional materials and equipment, provide the required, high quality professional development needed to teach new coursework, and renovate an existing science laboratory to replicate biomedical industry standards. Dylan Hager, a longtime science instructor at Monty Tech traveled to University of San Diego July of 2017, and will return July of 2018, to complete training in two Project Lead the Way courses, Principles of Biomedical Science and Human Body Systems. These courses, which will be available to students Fall 2018, are expected to engage students in a variety of hands-on learning opportunities in a newly renovated laboratory environment that replicates industry standards. Students will be trained in the safe and effective use of the same tools that professionals in hospitals and laboratories are currently using and will work together to find solutions to real-world problems by analyzing medical histories, reading and interpreting autopsy reports, and understanding basic biology and human physiology.

Expand vocational-technical programs to include new, Chapter 74-approved, Veterinary Science program: While

construction and fundraising efforts for the school's new program have been underway for almost two years, to effectively bring a new program to a Massachusetts vocational-technical school, a comprehensive application and supporting documents must be accepted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

During the 2017-2018 school year, school officials will complete the application, finalize all requirements outlined in the application, and anticipate being granted approval for the new secondary-level program titled Animal Science. This approval is given pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 74 and the Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.00, and will enable all interested Freshman to explore the new program. A Freshman class (class size of twenty-two students) will be accepted into the program January 2018.

Expand post-secondary and continuing education opportunities: As you know, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is home to a very popular evening program that includes a postsecondary Practical Nursing program, Plumbing and Electrical apprenticeship programs, and continuing education courses that range from healthcare to advanced manufacturing to cake decorating. While we are proud of our current evening programs, our goal for the 2017-2018 school year is to expand programs to include an entirely electronic registration and payment process, an updated web presence, increased enrollment, and a minimum of three new



workforce development programs that result in an industry recognized credential or certification. Catalogs highlighting each new course will be mailed to more than 180,000 households bi- annually, in August and January.

**Redesign the school's website and expand marketing efforts:** A Monty Tech high school experience is an educational pathway students must choose, and to ensure that every interested student in our sending district has access to information needed to make sound decisions regarding his/her high school experience, it is imperative that the school's marketing efforts are expanded to include a newly designed website, with descriptions of each vocational shop, academic programs, and admissions criteria. In addition, expanding our marketing efforts to include a social media presence that is current, and engaging is a top priority. During the 2017-2018 school year, school officials anticipate launching a new school website, adding updated content to our Facebook page on a regular basis, and launching a school/district Twitter account.

### **The Monty Tech School Committee**

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures.

Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experiences and varying perspectives, and we are thankful

to the following members of the 2016-2017 School Committee for their outstanding service:

**Barbara Reynolds**, Lunenburg, *Chair*

**Brian J. Walker**, Fitchburg, *Vice Chair*

**Diane Swenson**, Ashburnham

**Peter Capone**, Ashby

**Toni L. Phillips**, Athol

**Whitney Marshall**, Barre

**Claudia Holbert**, Fitchburg

**Dr. Ronald Tourigny**, Fitchburg

**Melanie Weeks**, Fitchburg

**Eric D. Commodore**, Gardner

**James S. Boone**, Gardner

**Vacant Seat**, Harvard

**James Cournoyer**, Holden

**Kathleen Airoidi**, Hubbardston

**Edward Simms**, Petersham

**Eric Olson**, Phillipston

**John P. Mollica**, Princeton

**Mary C. Barclay**, Royalston

**Dr. Kenneth I.H. Williams**, Sterling

**James M. Gilbert**, Templeton

**Ross Barber**, Westminster

**Burton E. Gould, Jr./**

**Austin Cyganiewicz**, Winchendon

**Terri Hillman**, Gardner Secretary

**Norman J. LeBlanc**, District Treasurer





# HUMAN SERVICES BOARD OF HEALTH

## Annual Report

Board of Health members Scott Sibley, Glenn Hathaway, Tom Flanagan, Dr. F. John McLaughlin and Patrick Durkee.

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health continues to serve the local Board of Health in meeting the challenges of environmental and public health needs in Ashburnham. In addition to the day to day public health work we conduct for Ashburnham we also provide the following services.

- Maintaining Nashoba's internet web site to provide information for the public. (See [nashoba.org](http://nashoba.org))
- Through our involvement in the Bioterrorism Regional Coalition we are keeping the Ashburnham Board of Health up-to date on matters of emergency preparedness planning. We are currently working on the Emergency Dispensing Site Plan for the Town.
- Nashoba assisted the Board with provided a school-located seasonal flu clinic at Oakmont Regional High School.
- Response to health related impacts of beavers through coordination with the local Board of Health in the issuance of the necessary permits.
- Response to state mandated changes in regulations requiring more frequent beach sampling through sample collection, submittal for analysis, and follow-up when results were obtained.

We look forward to continuing our work with Ashburnham's Board of Health. Included in the day-to-day work of Nashoba in 2017 were the follow-ing:

- Through membership in the Association Ashburnham benefited from the services of Nashobastaffincluding: Registered Sanitarians, Certified Health Officers, Registered Nurses, Registered Physical & Occupational Therapists, Licensed Social Workers, Certified Home Health Aides, and Registered Dental Hygienists
- Provided health education programs in collaboration with the Ashburnham Council on Aging.
- Collaborated with Montachusett Home Care concerning elders at risk and other safety issues.
- Reviewed 55 Title 5 state mandated private Septic System Inspections for Ashburnham Board of Health. Received, reviewed, and filed these state mandated (but unfunded) Title 5 inspections. Corresponded with inspectors regarding deficiencies; referred deficient inspections to Ashburnham Board of Health for enforcement action.

By the Ashburnham Board of Health's continued participation in the Association you can shape your future local public health programs and share in the benefits of quality service at a reasonable cost!

## Environmental Information Responses

### Ashburnham Office (days).....105

The Nashoba sanitarian is available for the public at least twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings at the Ashburnham Board of Health Office. (Ashburnham residences can also reach their sanitarian through the Nashoba office in Ayer, Monday-Friday 8:00AM – 4:30PM)

### Food Service Licenses &

### Inspections.....21

Nashoba annually mails out and receives application from both restaurants and retail food businesses. Licenses are renewed for existing facilities. Plans are submitted and reviewed prior to initial licensing. We use a risk based inspection model to insure all licensees are inspected. Where deficiencies are found, a re-inspection is scheduled to insure compliance. When a complaint from the public is received an inspection is also conducted. During this inspection health factors of food handlers is also investigated, and where appropriate medical consultation and laboratory testing may be required.

### Beach/Camp Inspections..... 15

Camps are inspected at least annually at opening for compliance with State Sanitary Code, Chapter IV, 105CMR430.00. Public swimming beaches are sampled for water quality every week during the summer and more often if a problem is suspected.

### Housing & Nuisance

### Investigations..... 17

Nashoba, as agent for the Ashburnham Board of Health, inspects dwellings for conformance

with State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.00, issues orders for correction, and re-inspect for compliance. Similarly, complaints from residents concerning unsanitary conditions or pollution events are investigated.

**Septic System Test Applications.....36**

Applications from residents proposing to build or upgrade a septic system are accepted, a file created, and testing dates are coordinated with the applicants engineer.

**Septic System Lot Tets.....106**

Nashoba sanitarian witnesses soil evaluations, deep hole tests, and, usually on a separate date, percolation tests conducted by the applicant’s engineer which serve as the basis of the design of the septic system.

**Septic System Plan Applications.....34**

Detailed plans created by engineers hired by residents proposing to build or upgrade a septic system are received, filed, and routed to the Nashoba sanitarian for review.

**Septic System Plan Reviews .....77**

Engineered plans are reviewed according to state code, Title 5, and local Board of Health regulations and review forms are created and sent to engineer for revision. Subsequent re-submittals by the engineer are also reviewed.

**Septic System Permit Applications (new lots).....12**

**Septic System Permit Applications (upgrades).....26**

Applicants’ approved plan submittals and Board of Health requirements are incorporated into a permit to construct the septic system.

**Septic System Construction Inspections.....76**

Nashoba Sanitarian is called to construction site at various phases of construction to witness & verify that system is built according to plans.

**Septic System Consultations.....54**

During all phases of application, design, and construction the Nashoba Sanitarian is called upon for legal details and interpretation.





# COUNCIL ON AGING

## Annual Report

### Council on Aging – Annual Report

To the Board of Selectmen and citizens of Ashburnham, September of 2017 marked the 6th year that the Council on Aging has been on the second floor of the Town Hall.

The Council on Aging is a Town Department officially established at the 1994 Town Meeting.

**Mission Statement:** The Ashburnham Council on Aging supports a healthy and enriched lifestyle for our Seniors by identifying their needs and advocating on their behalf; designing and implementing services to fill these needs: assisting Seniors to maintain their independence to be active members of our community and by enlisting the Community's support and participation.

The Senior Center is open from 9 AM – 2PM Monday through Thursday. Closed on Friday, but the van still runs to Athol for shopping day. Our telephone number is 978-827-5000 or 978-827-4100 ext 124.

The COA Director reports to the Town Administrator. The COA Board and the COA Director work together to provide services and programs, set policies and oversees the budget to meet the needs of the seniors. Council on Aging Board meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:30.

### *Ashburnham Senior Center Activities*

#### **Lunch**

Monday-Wednesday 12PM

Provided by MOC

(Please call in advance to order your meal)

#### **Line Dancing**

Monday-Thursday @ 10AM

**Bingo-** Every Wednesday @ 1PM

#### **Pizza and Bingo-**

The last Wednesday of the Month

#### **Card Making W/Merrily**

Alternating Tuesday's @ 10AM

**Crafts -**Alternating Tuesday's @ 10AM

#### **Watercolor Painting-**

Every Thursday @ 12 Noon

#### **Drop in Knitting Group**

Every Thursday @11:00

#### **Shopping Adventures W/Bruce**

Every Friday @9AM

**Blood Pressure Clinic:** Last Wednesday of the month from 11 AM – 1 PM with a Nashoba Health Nurse.

**SHINE:** Ashburnham has its own SHINE counselor here on the 2nd Tuesday of every month by appointment only. We want to express our thanks to the Volunteer Council on Aging Board Members:

Betty Bushee - Chairperson  
Lorna Fields - Member

Elouise Baker - Member  
Althea Donahue - Secretary

Virginia Driscoll - Member  
Barbara Hanson - Member

Shirley Stevens - Member  
Gloria Jean Lorion

Many special thanks to the hardworking employees at Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC) who provides the congregate meals and meals on wheels program.

MOC provides congregate meals at the Senior Center Monday through Thursday at 12 noon. the donation is \$3.00 per meal. Please call the day before to reserve the meal.

The meals on wheels program is designed for the homebound and is a safety net. The drivers that deliver become familiar with the people on the route and report concerns to the COA Director. The donation for this meal is also \$3.00 per meal and meals are delivered four or five days a week. Call MOC at 978-345-8501 extension #2 to register.

A big thank you to the people who deliver our meals weekly: John Johnson and Rachel Graham.

HDM (Home Delivered Meals) - 25 Clients / 1777 Meals

Congregate meals served at Senior Center- 15 Clients/ 170 Meals

MART Van local service  
COA Van Long Distance Service

# of hours in operation: 1711  
# of hours in Operation: 402

# of days in operation: 250  
# of days in operation: 78

# of miles traveled: 25,631  
# of miles traveled: 7367

# of non-duplicate riders: 288  
# of non-duplicated riders: 1

### MART Trips:

Medical: 415 Medical: 120

Nutritional: 51 Social: 228

Social/Recreation: 203 Shopping: 30

Shopping: 852

Other: 356

1 Trips this year: Twin River Casino, Pickety Place, Hobby Lobby, Christmas Tree Shop, Mohegan Sun, Hampton Beach sand sculptures, Cabaret Lulu lunch and show in Sturbridge, Mystery Brunch on Lake Watatic hosted by the Ashburnham Conservation Trust, Sheriff's Picnic in Shrewsbury, Kittery Maine, Topsfield Fair and Bright Nights at Forest Park in Springfield, MA.

A big THANK YOU to all our drivers. We, as a senior community in need of wheels, would not be who we are today without them! (Dave Brown, Bruce Hill, Gerard Thibeault, Mike Horniak (Dual dispatch and driver) and Robert Wotton Mart Van Local Service

#of hours in operation	1724.25
#of days in operation	222
#of miles traveled	29,531
#of non-duplicate riders	301
Trips Medical	433
Nutritional	315
Social/Recreational	190
Shopping	664
Other	746

CDrivers- Ed Wagg, Bruce Hill, Dave Brown, Gerry Thibeault, Robert Wotton, Dan Novak, Ron Lewis, Russell Clark, Mike Horniak.



Thank You to Ed Wagg who retired this year Our 11-year-old, ten-seater passenger van is very popular with our seniors giving them the opportunity to travel out of the area for excursions or much needed medical appointments. Thank you to Shamus Pender our "Irish" entertainer in March hosted by the Forever Young Club.

A big thank you to the Athol Savings Bank for their donations of a convection oven and numerous other items. Happy 150th!

The COA hosted its sixth annual Community Health Fair with 15 vendors. It was a tight fit, but we made it work! Flu shots were offered to the community and given by the Nashoba Valley Board of Health.

In December our seniors again enjoyed a Christmas Party at McNally's. 70 in attendance.

Thank you to Summit Elder Care for your fun and fabulous Holiday Makeover in December.

Many changes are upon us. I want to thank all our volunteers and others in the community who make the council on aging the successful organization it is today.

*Respectfully Submitted, Janet Robbins, COA Director*



# VETERANS AGENT

## Annual Report

Massachusetts has been providing benefits to its veterans since colonial days. From the French and Indian Wars to the Global War on Terrorism, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides financial assistance to veterans in need. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115 (MGL Ch. 115) requires every city and Town to maintain a Department of Veterans Services and establish a Veterans Services Officer (VSO) to assist in dispensing these benefits. We are the only state in the nation that, by law, requires every municipality to have a Veterans Agent or VSO employed to assist Veterans and their survivors. I have considered it a privilege to have been able to do this for the town and now I welcome George Kincannon to help implement this program to the veterans of Hubbardston.

Veterans with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level can receive financial assistance under MGL Ch. 115 as long as they meet the cash asset limits below.

### 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Number in Family	Maximum Monthly Income
1	\$ 1,980.00
2	\$ 2,670.00

### Cash asset limits (home and car exempt)

Single	\$5,000
Married	\$ 9,800

George Kincannon has joined me as Assistant VSO as I will be departing in May 2017. George and I can also help you in filing federal claims to the Veterans Administration (VA) for service related benefits that Veterans and their Widows/ Widowers are entitled to.

The financial benefit to Hubbardston, according to VA records, is that over 50 recipients in town receive an aggregate of over \$149,000 annually. Additionally, MGL Ch. 115 has authorized Hubbardston to spend over \$30,000 on its Veterans with 75% of that amount reimbursed back to the town for its support of Veterans Services.

Our office is in Room 131 of the Westminster Town Hall where we also serve Ashburnham and Westminster Veterans. You will find us there every Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 2pm. You can reach us by phone at (978) 874-7461 and/or email [gkincannon@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:gkincannon@westminster-ma.gov)

Respectfully submitted,

George J. Kincannon, First Sergeant, U.S. Army (Retired)



# CULTURE, RECREATION & SPECIAL COMMITTEES & BOARDS

## CULTURAL COUNCIL

### Annual Report

The Ashburnham Cultural Council (ACC) is a local nonprofit organization that provides financial support, services or other programs for arts organizations and individual artists in the community or region. ACC runs under the auspices of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. During our grant cycle, we aim to give support to local public programs that encourage education, diversity and excellence in the arts.

Applications are initially screened using the following criteria:

Project must have a confirmed performance/exhibit date, audience, and venue. Applicants must provide a venue confirmation and date in the form of a letter or approved reservation form from the venue host.

Applications will then be evaluated using all the following criteria:

- Benefit to Ashburnham and the local area
- Collaboration between local institutions
- Artistic excellence (as reflected in resumes, letters, press, videos, other qualifying materials).

## Cultural Council Continued

FY 2018			
Name	Project	Project title	Amount
Anne LeBlanc / Winchendon Music Festival	Arts	Winchendon Music Festival	\$500
Ashburnham Economic Development Commission	Arts	Creative Crosswalk Mural Program	\$700
DiPrima, Jay	Arts	Henry David Thoreau Lyceum Lecture Tour	\$300
Fitchburg Art Museum	Arts	83rd Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft	\$200
Gardner Area League Of Artists	Arts	GALA Annual Spring Art Show 2018	\$200
Gardner Area League Of Artists	Arts	TrackLighting for New Art Gallery	\$300
Harrison, Jana	Science	Spectacular Science for Preschoolers with "Kosmic	\$280
Henderson, Steve	Arts	"The Brass Monkey" - A comedy mystery	\$315
Maichack, Gregory	Arts	Monet's Magic: Pastel Paint Monet's Wondrous Water	\$350
MUSIC Dance.edu	Arts	Hip Hop Around the World!	\$280
Oakmont Musical Theatre	Arts	Including K-5 Students and Families in Peter Pan	\$600
Rausch, Karl	Arts	New England Swing Orchestra	\$1,200
Tincknell, Roger	Arts	Elvis to the Everly Brothers	\$300

- Diversity of age groups, cultural backgrounds and artistic disciplines
- Originality
- Feasibility—ability of the applicant to carry out the project as proposed

In 2017, the ACC received \$ 4600 from the MCC for FY2018 allocation. There was \$925.00 in the account for extra distribution. The total, \$5525.00, was distributed as follows in the following graph.

For the year 2017, the Ashburnham Cultural Council met to brainstorm ways to

invigorate the cultural life of the town. We were represented at the initial Ashburnham Economic Development Commission Meeting and will hope to work more together in the future. In 2018, we plan to meet often to bring more offerings to the Ashburnham community. Our other goal is to add more members who are interested in supporting the arts and culture in this beautiful town. Members of the committee supported and attended local concerts and art openings as often as possible happening within the community.

The members of the ACC are appointed by the Board of Selectman to allocate grants funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency. Funding is based on the town census.

In 2017, our members included the following individuals.

Members/Expiration date:

Rebecca Cinclair/ 2019

Deborah Gardner / 2019

Monica Tessitore / 2019

Wendy Landry Margo / 2018

Rebecca Rice/ 2019

Tammy Ricker / 2018

The ACC membership is encouraged by the positive support and favorable response from the community regarding the programs that have been funded. As the ACC moves forward, the membership strives to bring artistic and varied educational cultural experiences to the local community.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Rebecca Rice Flanagan*  
*Rebecca Rice Flanagan, Chairperson*  
*ashburnhamculturalcouncil@gmail.com*

# TRUSTEES OF STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## Annual Report

“Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.” – R. David Lankes

For the past four years the primary focus of the Trustees has been on restoration of the Library’s infrastructure in areas or policy, procedures, services and plant & equipment.

Working with the Town’s Energy Committee, and with the help of almost \$250,000 in State grants augmented with Town and Library funds, the Library’s ailing HVAC system will be replaced with a state-of-the-art air sourced heat pump. When this project is completed in April, the emphasis on restoration will end. Going forward, the Trustees will maintain an eye on infrastructure, but the focus will shift to the future.

Our vision is that the Stevens Memorial Library will be the “information gateway of our community for: reading and research; access to technology; and programs for all, to meet the 21st century needs of our town.” We are benchmarking our library’s performance against the best similarly sized libraries in the state to identify gaps in services and target areas for improvement. In addition, the utilization of the current library space will be examined with an eye to increase the function, flow and aesthetic appeal of the library.

As R. David Lankes suggests, we want to become a great library by building a sense of community in Ashburnham. Get on board the train to help us fulfill our vision. Your ticket is your library card. If you don’t have one, you can get it at the Circulation Desk at the Library, and guess what, it’s free!

Check us out: <http://www.ashburnhamlibrary.org>

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Jessica Caouette,  
Paula St. Laurent Kuehl,  
Anne Olivari,  
Christopher Rigby  
Edward Vitone  
Candace Wright*

# LIBRARY TRUSTEES TREASURER

## Annual Report

*To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the  
Citizens of Ashburnham*

The report of the Trust Funds of the Stevens Memorial Library for the period beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 is as follows:

Investments at Edward Jones  
Beginning Balance (1/1/2017) \$219,408.31  
Unrealized Gains/ (Loss) \$32,109.37  
Expenditures \$0.00  
Ending Balance (12/31/2016) \$251,517.68

*Respectfully Submitted Paula St. Laurent  
Kuehl Treasurer for Library Trustees*

# LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## Annual Report

## Around the Library



The Library was thrilled to host nearly 32,000 visitors in 2017. We also checked out approximately 32,000 items to you and added 357 new cardholders. (Welcome!) Our building was open over 2,000 hours last year, but our online resources were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We also welcomed two new staff members in 2017: Circulation Assistant Chardell Davis and Programming & Outreach Coordinator Corinne H. Smith. While we were sad to say goodbye to Library Assistant Margaret French, Chardell and Corinne have been wonderful additions to our team. If you haven’t yet done so, please stop by and get to know them!

In 2017, we held 218 programs, which were attended by 3,444 people. These included our programs for kids, teens, and adults





*The Library holds a "Meet the Artist" event on the first Saturday of each month to celebrate the artist whose work is displayed that month.*

Randy LeSage pictured above

during this year's Summer Reading. We used the Summer Reading theme, "Build a Better World," to highlight our community helpers (we were so grateful to Ashburnham's DPW, Police, Fire, and Municipal Light Plant for bringing equipment to our kickoff!), who help make the world better every day. We also worked to build a better world through STEM and construction programming (Minecraft Madness and LEGO Club were especially popular).

The rest of the year, our programs were as varied as our community. From our Current Events Speaker Series (which covered issues as diverse as introductions to Islam, global warming, and the Second Amendment) to our painting workshops, we continued to expand our programs for adults of a wide variety of interests. We even hosted Stockbridge Herb's Autumn Tastes from the Garden, our first program in the Dianne Mayo Fichtel Creative Living

Series. We also held programs for teens and tweens (soap making, anyone?) as well programs for younger kids, including storytime, woodworking, and puppet shows. We worked to improve the building and property this year: replacing the old concrete ramp with an aluminum ramp for improved access; regrading around the building to end flooding; repaving the rear parking lot. We also had the floors refinished – if you haven't seen how beautiful the stairs and Community Room floor look, stop by today!

While you're looking at those gorgeous floors, why not stop by the Preservation Room? We've had it organized and inventoried, improving your access to your local history. Come to research your genealogy, or to learn more about this wonderful town of ours! All are welcome, but it's best to make an appointment ahead of time.

### **Around town**

The Library is so much more than our collections and buildings. Our membership in C/W MARS continues to give Stevens Memorial Library cardholders enormous benefits (according to its website, <http://www.cwmars.org>, "The network includes public and academic libraries from 495 to the New York State line with more than 8.5 million physical items and ebooks available to borrow by Massachusetts residents"). You can access those collections and other resources from your phone or on the go! Check out the items available through C/W MARS at <http://bark.cwmars.org>, and have them conveniently delivered to our library.

Is the library not convenient enough? Read a book on your phone or tablet via the Libby app (<https://meet.libbyapp.com/>) or online at <http://digitalbooks.cwmars.org>.

We also offer homebound delivery services for Ashburnham residents who are unable to leave their homes. If you are stuck at home permanently or temporarily, reach out to the Library so we can bring your items to you. Whether you love magazines, DVDs, or books (in large print, regular print, or audio), we're happy to deliver.

### **Your Community Center**

The Library is continually seeking to expand our impact. From examining layout and design to changing policies to accommodate community needs, we are always looking to improve. If you haven't visited lately, please come by. Have coffee with a friend (yes, beverages with lids are welcome). Host a meeting for your club or group (it's free). Invite us to your event to learn more about what we can do for you (we'll go anywhere).

The Library wouldn't be the organization it is without its dedicated staff, tireless volunteers, incredible Friends, and visionary Trustees. I am so grateful to work with each of these individuals and groups, and look forward to another year of serving Ashburnham any way that I can.

*Respectfully submitted, Emily Donnelly*

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

## Annual Report

**Mission Statement:** The Ashburnham Parks and Recreation Committee mission statement is two-fold: (1) to create and manage recreational events and activities that bring the community together and (2) to maintain our parks and playgrounds in the best possible condition.

Besides maintaining our parks and playgrounds the Ashburnham Parks and Recreation Department brings the community together by providing several annual events. We strive to enhance the quality of life for residents, strengthen community image and community bonds while promoting health and wellness. The Parks and Recreation Committee members try to come up with new activities for a wide range of residents. We are dedicated to continuing these free activities and programs and are always seeking volunteers and new ideas.

The Parks and Recreation Committee meets regularly and these meetings are posted on the Town of Ashburnham's website [www.ashburnham-ma.gov](http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov). We welcome any suggestions and would love to have more members involved. We currently have two open voting positions. If you're interested in joining, please inquire at the Town Hall.

Without the many volunteers from the community these activities and programs would not be possible. We believe the families that visit the parks have played a significant role with keeping the playground free of trash and debris. It takes all of us to keep our playgrounds clean and safe for our children! We truly appreciate the community's support!!



### Sweeney Memorial Playground

In the spring of 2017, we installed two brand new basketball poles and hoops on one side of the court. On the other court we installed two hockey nets that can be used for street hockey. With dek hockey becoming widely popular in New England and many parts of the country, we thought let's bring it to Ashburnham! Sweeney Playground also received new mulch which was spread by the DPW.



### Winchester Park

Our summer concert series are held in Winchester Park and they continue to be well received by the community and visitors alike. Winchester received new mulch and a new fence around the sandbox area. Our green space at Winchester Park remains free from pet waste and it's a good feeling to know that our visitors can enjoy our concert series and children can run around and play without worry of unsanitary conditions.

Winchester Park continues to be used by other organizations.

- June 24th – Ashburnham Community Day Sponsored by the Ashburnham Lions
- September 28th – Ashburnham Scouts recruitment night
- September 30th – Scarecrow making sponsored by Stevens Memorial Library & Ashburnham Economic Development Commission
- June 24th – Ashburnham Community Day sponsored by The Ashburnham Lions



## Kate Arpano Memorial

The Girls Scouts erected a beautiful memorial in memory of Kate Arpano who passed away at the young age of 6. The memorial was originally scheduled to come down before the winter to avoid it from being damaged by the elements. However, this memorial is so well-built and absolutely beautiful we decided to keep it up. The Girl Scouts continue to maintain this memorial beautifully.



## Bench Dedication Steve Gallant

The Friends of Steve Gallant held a dedication ceremony of a bench in Steve's memory. This took place on June 24, 2017 during Ashburnham Community Day at Winchester Park. The event was started by a performance from the Fitchburg Alumni Band which Steve played in for many years.

Steve was an important part of the Community dedicating his time and efforts to many groups, organizations, events, and activities. He was an extraordinary man and loved by all. The dedication was well attended. *Steve was:* **THE VOICE OF ASHBURNHAM**





## Tree Lighting at Town Hall

Ashburnham's Sixth Annual Tree Lighting and Santa Parade was held on December 1, 2017. That Friday evening was seasonably cool on Main Street. The Town Hall front lawn was crowded with enthusiastic children and adults. This year, a Norway spruce tree was purchased and the Ashburnham Department of Public Works helpfully planted it front of Town Hall. This tree will hopefully thrive in this location and grow tall, so that it can be used for holiday festivities for years to come. Todd Allen of Allen Tree Service volunteered to string the lights for us and sound equipment was provided by Hank Parkinson. The Parks and Recreation Committee and all its helpful volunteers had the program organized, the Town Hall interior decorated, arts and crafts activities prepared, and all involved had a role to play.

Let the ceremony begin! Our new Town Administrator, Heather Budrewicz was a terrific master of ceremonies for the evening, and Kyle Johnson (Board of Selectmen Chair) formally welcomed everyone to the annual event. Expectant children were amused by characters dressed up as Frosty, a Gingerbread Man, The Grinch, and Elves from the North Pole. Girls Scouts, Daisies, and Brownies entertained the crowd by singing holiday songs, followed by a holiday story read by Corinn Smith from Stevens Memorial Library. Adults and children alike enjoyed the cocoa and cookies generously donated by Cushing Academy. All was ready for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive in



front of Town Hall to light the tree, and the excitement of the children in attendance was palpable.

Hark! The music by the Oakmont Marching Spartans Band could be heard coming down Main Street! They had convened at the school boy statue, and marched right up to Town Hall. They led a procession that culminated with Santa and Mrs. Claus riding in style on Ashburnham's newest fire department vehicle, typically used for off-road rescues. It certainly came in handy since there wasn't enough snow on the ground that night to accommodate Santa's usual transport...his



sleigh! Disembarking at Town Hall, Santa lit the tree with Mrs. Claus by his side. The Oakmont Marching Spartans played "Oh Christmas Tree" while everyone took in the beauty of the lights!

Afterwards, children dashed inside of Town Hall to participate in the many activities planned for them. Some raced to the third floor to have their picture taken with Santa. While there, they could also make Reindeer Cocoa Cones or Snowman 'Soup.' Some wrote their wishes inside letters to Santa, or created Snowman Rulers. One level below them, many people wrote letters to our veterans serving overseas, or contributed to gift cards that would be distributed to Ashburnham families who have fallen on hard times. The Parks & Recreation Committee is so very grateful for everyone in the community who contributed their time and resources to extend good cheer to those who were in most need of holiday merriment.

In addition to all these activities, children decorated gingerbread cookies and used their mathematical prowess to guess how



many holiday candies were contained in a huge jar on display. Congratulations to Chloe for having the closest guess. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all. We estimate that close to 1,000 people attended the festivities! We are very grateful for those in our community that contributed to this wonderful event.

Thank you to the Ashburnham Police Department, the Ashburnham Fire Department, the Ashburnham Department of Public Works, the Ashburnham Municipal Light Dept., the Ashburnham Senior Center, the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, local Girl Scouts, Price Chopper, Oakmont Marching Spartans Band,

Oakmont Peer Leaders, Oakmont National Honor Society, Cushing Academy, Stevens Memorial Library, Ashburnham Lions Club, Todd Allen, Hank Parkinson, and all the volunteers who made this event a fun-filled success!

## Parks and Recreation Easter Egg Hunt

The Parks and Recreation Committee held the town's annual Egg Hunt at Oakmont Regional High School, using both gymnasiums for the Pre-K through 5th grade age groups. As in years past we divided the children into 4 groups: Pre-K, Kindergarten-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th.

About 4000 eggs were filled and dispensed within the 2 gyms. The younger groups gathered eggs at a set starting time while the older groups crawled for their eggs. Each of the 4 groups had hidden eggs for a chance to win an Easter basket. Tickets for 2 bikes and 2 stuffed animals were also in hidden eggs.

The winners were :

Baskets:

Katarina Campaigne - Pre-K

Brett LeBlanc - 1st grade

Silas Roy - 2nd grade

Ryleigh Dufour - 4 grade

Stuffed Animals:

Presley Rushford - 22 mos

Ryleigh Dufour - 4th grade

Bicycles:

Luke Younkin - 2 yrs old

Lilly Bedard - 8 yrs old.

Congratulations to the winners!

The Easter Bunny came early and had an area set up inside the door near the gym for those who wanted to have pictures taken. The Oakmont National Honor society and the Oakmont Peer Leaders again helped us set up everything and prepare for our Egg Hunt. They are a reliable and much appreciated source of help for our events!

Thank you to the Ashburnham Lions Club for their continued support of the Parks and Rec committee with a generous donation which we used for the purchase of bikes and stuffed animals. Thank you to Oakmont for the use



of the school and the help of the custodial staff. In 2018 we will change things up a bit. We are looking to have our Egg Hunt outside at Briggs to be held after the Bunny Breakfast. Overall the Egg Hunt was a success and fun was had by all who participated. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a wonderful tradition for the children in our community!

## Ashburnham Summer Concert Series

Our Summer Concerts Series at Winchester Park continued to be well attended by the community and visitors. They were scheduled for Sunday evenings from 5:00pm -7:00pm at Winchester Park. Our guests enjoyed a relaxing time listening to the music from extremely talented musicians. Below was our 2017 schedule.

This year, two bands, Blues Brothers Briefcase and The New England Swing Orchestra were made possible through grants from the Ashburnham Cultural Council. The Council has been very supportive with Ashburnham Parks and Recreation Department and other organizations in town. Thank you to the Ashburnham Cultural Council for your dedication in bringing talented artists to Ashburnham for the community to enjoy! Jana Harrison, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Coordinator from the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District came out and provided different activities for the kids to enjoy.

***Thank you to all who came out, supported and enjoyed our 2017 Summer Concerts in the Park!***

## ASHBURNHAM CONCERT SERIES 2017 at WINCHESTER PARK



Sundays 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
July 9 thru September 3

(In the Event of Rain - Concert will be re-scheduled at the end of Series)

July 9	The Ashboys	Little Band with a Big Sound
July 16	Quintessential Brass	5 Piece Brass Quintet
July 23	New England Swing Band	Big Band / Swing
July 30	Honky Tonk Hangover	Country
Aug 6	Black Sheep Jazz Band	Dixieland Jazz
Aug 13	Knock on Wood	Acoustic Folk-Rock Duo
Aug 20	Retro Stew	Classic Rock
Aug 27	Nashoba Valley Concert Band	Traditional and Modern
Sept 3	Blues Brothers Briefcase	Blues Brothers Tribute

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ashburnhamparksandrec/>





SPORT	REGISTRATION DATES	Registration Info & Contact Info
Basketball Oakmont Youth Basketball Winter	September - November 1 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="http://www.sportsmanager.us/oybl">http://www.sportsmanager.us/oybl</a> Oakmont Youth Basketball League
Baseball - Softball - Rookie - T-Ball Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Spring/Summer	January 1 (early bird) - March 1	<a href="http://www.ashburnhambaseballandsoftball.org/secretary@ashburnhambaseballandsoftball.org">http://www.ashburnhambaseballandsoftball.org/secretary@ashburnhambaseballandsoftball.org</a>
Cheering Oakmont Chargers Fall	January - early bird	<a href="http://oakmontyouthfootballandcheer.website.sipplay.com/">http://oakmontyouthfootballandcheer.website.sipplay.com/</a> Oakmont Chargers
Dek Hockey Fitchburg Street Hockey (Fitchburg) Spring & Fall	February & August	<a href="http://www.fitchburgstreethockey.com">http://www.fitchburgstreethockey.com</a> Fitchburg Street Hockey League
Dek Hockey Greater Gardner Dek Hockey Assoc. (Gardner) Spring	February 1 - March 31	<a href="http://ggsha.sipplay.com/site/">http://ggsha.sipplay.com/site/</a> <a href="http://ggsha.org/boardofdirectors@ggsha.org">http://ggsha.org/boardofdirectors@ggsha.org</a>
Dek Hockey Leominster DekHockey Center (Leominster) Spring & Fall	February & Spring August - Fall	<a href="http://www.idtadekhockey.com">http://www.idtadekhockey.com</a> Leominster Dek Hockey 978-337-6711
Dek Hockey National Dek Hockey Center (Winchendon) Spring, Summer, Fall	February	<a href="http://dekhockey.com/NDHC@mylec.com">http://dekhockey.com/NDHC@mylec.com</a> National Dekhockey Center 978-297-0088
Hockey & Learn to Skate - Winter NCMYH	February/Hockey September/Learn to Skate	<a href="http://www.ncmyh.org/youthhockey@ncmyh.org">http://www.ncmyh.org/youthhockey@ncmyh.org</a> North Central Mass Youth Hockey
Football - Flag Central MA Flag - Gardner Spring/Summer	February	<a href="http://www.centralmassflag.com">http://www.centralmassflag.com</a> <a href="http://centralmassflag.sportngin.com/register/">http://centralmassflag.sportngin.com/register/</a>
Football - Oakmont Chargers Fall	February	<a href="http://oakmontyouthfootballandcheer.website.sipplay.com/">http://oakmontyouthfootballandcheer.website.sipplay.com/</a> Oakmont Chargers
Soccer Oakmont Youth Soccer Fall	June	<a href="http://oakmontyouthsoccer.com">http://oakmontyouthsoccer.com</a> Oakmont Youth Soccer
Lacrosse Youth NCM Youth Lacrosse Spring	October	<a href="http://www.ncmlax.net">http://www.ncmlax.net</a>
Soccer Travel Oakmont Outlaws Spring & Fall	November & May	<a href="http://oakmontoutlaws.org">http://oakmontoutlaws.org</a> Oakmont Outlaws

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Annual Report

The Ashburnham Economic Development Commission (AEDC) is a ten-member commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It began meeting in January 2017 and is committed to improving the economic and social well being of Ashburnham. Economic Development organizations like ours help cities and towns compete and sustain vibrant communities.

Communities compete against each other for economic development resources- business; real estate; and consumers- both local and non-local. To compete effectively a community must differentiate itself among its competitors.

What makes Ashburnham the best or better choice among its economic competitors?

To answer this question we must define and promote our strengths, acknowledge our weaknesses, market opportunities, and recognize threats.

In beginning the process of economic development, the AEDC spent several meetings participating in visioning exercises- testing our values against our mission statement- in order to develop a plan.

To gather data and confirm our community vision, we conducted and continue to conduct interviews with existing downtown businesses; prospective businesses; civic organizations and home based businesses including farming.

### **Why engage local businesses and property owners?**

People want to be proud of the town in which they live and work.

If we are proud of our town, people will be more likely to invest in our community whether it be by purchasing a residential property, establishing a business or procuring local goods and services.

Our pride becomes a differentiating factor.

Since January we have conducted close to forty interviews. The interviews are guided discussions that help to identify our shared values, beliefs, and concerns.

### ***What are our.....***

#### **• Values**

- We are a quaint New England town
- We value our outdoor recreation and open space. Ashburnham is beautiful.
- We value education. Our public schools have a good reputation and Cushing is an economic driver.

#### **• Beliefs**

- We can become a destination- outdoors, arts, restaurants, programming
- We have potential. We can prosper.
- Our people are warm and welcoming

#### **• Concerns**

- Condition of downtown- lack of sidewalks, limited parking, blight/neglect, poor roads, traffic
- Lack of available commercial space downtown.
- Affordability- water bills, taxes
- Need for new businesses- not the same ones- to be competitive. More restaurants, shops, galleries. We need to differentiate ourselves and build upon our potential.
- Change and improvement not happening fast enough
- Big box stores coming to town that will close down existing businesses and further de-value single family residential property values.

#### **Traffic**

We end all our discussions with the question: ***“What do you hope Ashburnham will be like in 20 years?”***

51% of the respondents said they hoped to see downtown expansion and improvement.

16% said they hoped Ashburnham would become a destination.

On Community Day we asked the same question of private citizens. Unsurprisingly their answers are the same as those given by local business owners. You can view their responses on a poster displayed in Town Hall. So we have talked to businesses, what next?

Over the upcoming months, the AEDC will begin Community Conversations. We will

be reaching out to community stakeholder groups. The AEDC is committed to improving the quality of life of people who live and work in our town. All voices are equal partners in economic and community development.

**What's our strategy? There are two- short-term and long-term.**

### Short-term

- Focus on quick and inexpensive improvements and enhancements.
- Must show visible change.
- Windshield Wow! What's going on here?
- Send a positive signal to prospective residents, businesses owners and consumers.
- Involve the community. Start a spark.
- Put our best foot forward in order to move towards the next step- the long game of economic development.

### Long-term

- Expensive improvements that require planning and the obtaining of grants, local, state and federal funding. For example, infrastructure projects, property and business development of large parcels, and community enhancements like parks, public art, and outdoor recreation.

Economic development takes time. It is a process. Become part of the process. The Commission meets twice monthly. We welcome the public at our meetings. Your input is important to us.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Bill, Johnson, Chairman**  
**Rosemarie Meissner, Vice Chairman**  
**Jaclyn Wooding, Secretary**  
**John Enright**  
**Leo Janssen**  
**Chris McNabb**  
**Ron Putnam**  
**Christina Sargent**  
**Richard Wright**





# VOTER'S GUIDE

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**1. Excess and Deficiency (E&D) – Surplus Revenue** – The amount by which the cash accounts receivable and other floating assets exceed liabilities and reserve funds.

**2. Free Cash or Available Funds** – Surplus revenue less outstanding taxes from prior years.

**3. Overlay Fund** – Amount raised by the Assessors by setting the tax rate, creating a fund to cover abatements granted.

**4. Overlay Reserve or Surplus** – Unused accumulated amount of the overlay for various years, which may be VOTED BY the Town for extraordinary or unforeseen purposes.

**5. Reserve Fund** – Amount transferred from overlay surplus or appropriated for unforeseen or emergency purposes. Controlled exclusively by the Advisory (Finance Committee) Board.

**6. Available Funds** – Free cash reserves and unexpected balances from other years available for appropriation. This affects the tax rate indirectly as any money spent other than that reimbursed by the County, State or Federal government must be raised by taxes and fees.

**7. Estimated Receipts** – Estimate of miscellaneous receipts based on previous years' receipts deducted by the Assessors from the gross amount to be raised by taxation

**8. Matching Funds** – Amounts made available by special State and Federal acts to supplement appropriations for specific types of projects.

**9. Cherry Sheet** – Details of State and County charges and reimbursements used in determining the tax rate. Name comes from the color of paper used.

**10. Override Vote** – An override vote becomes a permanent increase in the levy limit (the amount the community can raise through the property tax). Override requests must be presented in dollar terms and specify the purpose. A majority vote of approval by the electorate is required.

**11. Debt Exclusion and Capital Outlay Expenditures Exclusion** – A community can vote to assess taxes in excess of its levy limit or levy ceiling for the payment of certain capital projects, a capital outlay expenditure exclusion; or for the payment of specified debt service costs, a debt exclusion. The additional amount for the payment of the debt service or capital project cost is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only. Unlike overrides, exclusions do not become part of the base upon which the levy limit is calculated for future years. A majority vote of approval by the electorate is required for both types of exclusions.

## ASHBURNHAM TRANSFER STATION

Hours of operation – Saturday – 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To use the Ashburnham Transfer Station you must be a resident and have a Town purchased sticker placed on the trash bags, normal size of 32-35 gallons. For bulky items such as tires, appliances, etc., a large sticker will be required. Please see the following list for fees for any bulky items. Bulky item stickers must be purchased at Town Hall. Yard waste can be dropped off for free. The yard waste must be yard waste and only yard waste. No construction debris is allowed. Recycling can still be dropped off at the Transfer Station and also requires a sticker.

Stickers for trash bags and recycling are available at the Town Hall, Ashburnham Marketplace and Tweedo's Variety Store.

## Fee schedule

Any questions – please contact the DPW Office  
at 978-827-4120.

Household solid waste (trash)	\$5.00per 32-35gal.bag
Resident recycling	\$5.00 per trip
Car tires no rim	\$5.00 per tire
Truck tires no rim	\$10.00 per tire
CRT, TV's, computer screens, microwaves	\$50.00
Propane tank (empty)	\$15.00
Sofa, love seat	\$30.00
Upholstered chairs	\$20.00
Sleeper sofa	\$45.00
Chairs to desk or table	\$5.00
AC units, refrigerator, any unit containing CFC	\$65.00
Grills	\$20.00
White goods/metal (no CFC's)	\$20.00
Dishwasher	\$25.00
Toilet or sink	\$25.00
Mattress	\$35.00
Box spring	\$35.00
Carpet	\$20.00 per roll
Floor lamps	\$5.00
Car batteries	\$25.00

## Recycling Information

WHAT TO RECYCLE		DO NOT INCLUDE Any items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling.
Mixed Paper	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mail and envelopes (windows are OK)</li> <li>• Magazines and catalogs</li> <li>• Writing or ledger paper</li> <li>• Paperback books</li> <li>• Paper bags</li> <li>• Greeting cards</li> <li>• Wrapping paper</li> <li>• Shredded paper (place in paper bag)</li> <li>• Fax paper</li> <li>• Computer paper</li> </ul>	Mixed items <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper towels, facial tissues, napkins</li> <li>• Cigarette packs</li> <li>• Candy wrappers</li> <li>• Waxed or plastic-coated paper</li> <li>• Wrapping tissue paper</li> <li>• Foil wrapping paper</li> </ul>
Thin Cardboard  Newspapers (including all ads and inserts)	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoe boxes</li> <li>• Cereal boxes</li> <li>• Pasta boxes</li> <li>• Toilet paper rolls</li> <li>• Frozen food boxes</li> <li>• Gift boxes</li> <li>• Cake mix boxes</li> <li>• Toothpaste boxes</li> <li>• Tissue boxes</li> <li>• Paper egg cartons</li> <li>• Soda or beer packaging</li> <li>• Soap or laundry detergent boxes</li> </ul>	Thin cardboard items <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxes with silver or foil coatings</li> <li>• Anything dirty, greasy or plastic-coated</li> </ul>
Corrugated Cardboard	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxes and other corrugated cardboard should be flattened and folded so they fit in the cart.</li> <li>• Pizza boxes (with greasy liner removed)</li> </ul>	Corrugated cardboard items <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirty or greasy cardboard</li> </ul>

# Recycling Information Continued

WHAT TO RECYCLE		DO NOT INCLUDE Any items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling.
Tin/Aluminum, Scrap Metal	Examples include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminum and tin cans</li> <li>Foil and pie plates</li> <li>Wire clothes hangers</li> <li>Empty steel aerosol cans:</li> </ul>	Tin/aluminum, scrap metal items <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrap metal</li> <li>Paint cans</li> <li>Hypodermic needles (Please contact the Health Department for proper disposal information.)</li> </ul>

WHAT TO RECYCLE		DO NOT INCLUDE Any items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling.
Milk Cartons, Drink Boxes	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk and juice cartons</li> <li>Juice boxes</li> <li>Flavored milk boxes</li> <li>Cream and creamer containers</li> </ul>	Milk cartons, drink boxes items <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ice cream boxes</li> <li>TV dinner containers</li> <li>Margarine boxes</li> <li>Cream cheese boxes</li> </ul>

Glass Bottles and Jars	Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayonnaise jars</li> <li>Wine bottles</li> <li>Beer bottles</li> <li>Applesauce jars</li> <li>Spaghetti sauce jars</li> <li>Salsa jars</li> <li>Vinegar bottles</li> <li>Baby food jars</li> </ul>	Glass bottles and jars <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken glass</li> <li>Cups, dishes, glass windows, plates, Pyrex, ceramics, mirrors, light bulbs, crystal</li> </ul>
Plastic Bottles, Jars and Containers	This includes all rigid plastic containers with symbols $\triangle$ with numbers 1 through 7 in the symbol on the bottom; examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soda and juice bottles</li> <li>Salad dressing bottles</li> <li>Milk jugs</li> <li>Detergent bottles</li> <li>Shampoo bottles</li> <li>Window cleaner</li> <li>Saline solution bottles</li> <li>Fabric softener or bleach bottles</li> </ul>	Plastic bottles, jugs <b>not acceptable</b> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic shopping bags</li> <li>Plastic food wrap, potato chip and sandwich bags</li> <li>Styrofoam</li> <li>Automotive fluid bottles (oil, antifreeze, brake fluid)</li> </ul>

## Container Preparation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove all plastic bags.</li> <li>Remove any non-acceptable items.</li> <li>Corrugated cardboard should be broken down so it fits inside the container without jamming, so the cart will empty completely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All containers (jars, bottles, cartons, etc.) must be rinsed and free of all contaminants.</li> <li>Remove and discard all corks, tops, rings, metal bottleneck wraps, and unacceptable items.</li> <li>Flatten containers whenever possible.</li> </ul>
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## MEETING SCHEDULE

Board/Committee	When	Time	Location
A-W Regional School Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Team Room, Overlook Middle School
Advisory Board	Dates to be determined		
Board of Assessors	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	5:00 p.m.	Assessors Office, Town Hall
Board of Health (by appointment)	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	6:30 p.m.	Lower Level Room, Town Hall
Board of Selectmen	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	6:30 p.m.	Training Rm., Public Safety Bldg.
Building Inspector (by appointment)	Monday	5:00 p.m.	Land Use Office, Town Hall
Conservation Commission (by appointment)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	6:30 p.m.	Lower Level Room, Town Hall
Council on Aging Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	10:00 a.m.	Lower Level Room, Town Hall
Historical Commission	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:00 p.m.	Community Room, Stevens Library
Library Trustees	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Stevens Memorial Library
Municipal Light Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Light Dept., Williams Road
Parks & Recreation Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Fire Conf. Rm., Public Safety Bldg.
Planning Board (by appointment)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Lower Level Room, Town Hall
Town Clerk	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	5:00 p.m.	Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall
Water/Sewer Commissioners	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Lower Level Room, Town Hall
Zoning Board of Appeals	By appointment only		Lower Level Room, Town Hall



# WORD SEARCH

## *Municipal Words*

T P X X Z M L K F U O Q Y R E T E M E C Q F D I C  
L M M Y D V D J V N A I D O T S U C C B I E E R V  
I E P X I J E Z E C N A L U B M A P U T M A P C N  
B W R K B E N O Z Z L E F I X R D G L H D S U Y V  
R A S Y C I T A T I O N Y M E E M M V N O W T N I  
A R T S N O I T C E L E B K C U B T E A Q K Y J L  
R R Z P C N B O A R D S L Z P Q T G R X P R N K P  
Y A D R E G U L A T I O N S Q F A E T E E T C B W  
T N E M S S E S S A P L A N N I N G N I B O X F Q  
I T S N O I T C E P S N I K E H S L X A M P K A E  
I G I V B A H W H T S T C Y I C P R W M N Y N O T  
F X N K N U O O B L E O N M L Q H H I E U T H Q I  
U I F O X E E Y Z W L C E E D Q K T E N N K C B T  
U U R A R A D A R E E W Z T M Z T O W E C X S E Q  
U E X E C U T I V E C S O C D E Y Y M A X Y C F N  
T B G P F X O L B B T M Q T E D C P B E Y N O G O  
N O I S S I M M O C M L X S E L I R P Q A V L T I  
E G R V M G G C R W A B E M B U C X O I B M X N T  
M T E G D A B H W E N E O C Q Z F I L F F F V E A  
T D B H O T D A T W L L E E I E R P T U N D D M U  
R F S U O Y M H M E I E O K I L M E N R R E K E L  
A Z K N Z V O C U T R V I H K O B G T N A V K T A  
P W R E V I E W I K M Y C Z C L S U H M M B T A V  
E Z H X C F N O V J D M I N U T E S P B C Y G B D  
D W R O O T N E M T I M M O C B A L L O T V P A O

ABATEMENT	CEMETERY
ASSESSMENT	COMMITMENT
BADGE	DEPARTMENT
CITATION	EQUIPMENT
CULVERT	INSPECTIONS
ELECTIONS	NOZZLE
LEVY	TAX
REGULATIONS	WARRANT
PLANNING	COMMITTEES
AMBULANCE	BOARDS
AXE	PUBLIC
BALLOT	RADAR
COMMISSION	CUSTODIAN
DEMOLITION	LIEUTENANT
ENFORCEMENT	REVIEW
FIREFIGHTER	CHIEF
LIEN	DEPUTY
SELECTMAN	LIBRARY
COMPLIANCE	
VALUATION	
AGENDA	
MINUTES	
EXECUTIVE	
ARTICLE	
BACKHOE	